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Happy May Day

The Jordan Times will not be published Wednesday, May 2, on account of the May Day holiday Tuesday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Thursday, May 3. The editor and staff of the Jordan Times wish its readers and advertisers a very happy May Day.

Jordan Times

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Relatives protest Sudan executions

CAIRO (R) — Police in Khartoum Monday dispersed a demonstration by relatives of 25 army officers executed last week for their alleged role in a recent coup. Diplomats in the Sudanese capital said. "Police quickly dispersed a small gathering in town today (Monday) and there are no reports of injuries," a diplomat told Reuters by telephone from Khartoum. The said relatives of the officers gathered near the faculty of medicine in Khartoum to protest at their execution. The 25, including three major generals, were shot following last Monday's failed coup to topple the 15-year junta headed by Sudan's military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir who came to power in a coup last June. Bashir Sunday linked the coup bid to southern rebels who have been fighting Khartoum's troops since 1983. The Sudan People's Liberation Army described the executions as "cold blooded murders." Diplomats in Khartoum said that a group of young officers were also opposed to the execution and had prepared a complaint to the ruling junta voicing their displeasure. It was not clear if the petition was delivered to the ruling junta.

Kelly in Tunis but has no plans to see PLO

TUNIS (R) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly arrived in Tunis Monday to prepare for President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's visit to Washington next month. U.S. embassy officials said. Kelly is the most senior U.S. official to visit Tunisia since the United States opened talks with the Tunisian-based Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in December 1988. But U.S. and PLO officials said there were no plans for him to upgrade the level of U.S. contacts with the Palestinian movement by meeting PLO members. The U.S. ambassador in Tunis, Robert Pelletreau, was designated the sole channel for a PLO-American dialogue in 1988. He has seen members of the PLO's 15-man executive committee but most of his contacts have been with PLO Ambassador Hakam Balawi.

S. Yemen restores ties with U.S.

NICOSIA (R) — South Yemen said Monday it was restoring diplomatic ties with the United States after a 22-year break. The Qatari News Agency reported. "Following contacts between South Yemen and American envoys at the United Nations, the two countries have decided to restore diplomatic ties based on non-interference in internal affairs," said the agency, received in Cyprus. South Yemen leaders said in July they wanted to improve ties with other nations after years of isolation. In November they agreed with North Yemen to unify their countries under a democratic system within a year.

Kohl to meet Bush May 17

WASHINGTON (AP) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will meet with President George Bush at the White House May 17 to discuss the Middle East peace proposal of a U.S. secretary of state. Accused by Washington of creating obstacles to peace, the rightist Likud Party leader countered with his biggest swipe yet at Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. In a radio interview to mark the 42nd anniversary of Israel's creation, the 74-year-old Shamir defended his refusal to "say yes to Baker" which brought down his coalition with the Labour Party in March.

Turkey says seized pipes not gun parts

ANKARA (R) — Two truckloads of Iraq-bound metal pipes seized by Turkish customs at the weekend have no military application, a Turkish foreign ministry source said Monday. "I expect the trucks will be released soon," he said. But a truck loaded with a steel cylinder, impounded by Turkish customs officers at the Bulgarian border crossing point April 20, was still being held. All three vehicles were impounded on suspicion that their cargoes could be components for an alleged Iraqi super-gun, capable of firing nuclear and chemical warheads at Israel and Iraq. A Turkish official said the cylinder had still to be checked by military experts.

Turkish premier may visit Iraq

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut is likely to visit Iraq in May for talks on issues including a Kurdish insurgency in Turkey and sharing the waters of the Euphrates, official sources said Monday. The prospective trip follows Akbulut's visit to Iran in February and is in line with Turkey's desire to maintain neutrality between Baghdad and Tehran since their eight-year war was halted by a ceasefire in 1988. The sources said the official visit to Turkey's main oil supplier was likely May 27. Turkey is concerned at an increase in separatist Kurdish violence along its borders with Iraq, Iran and Syria and has indirectly threatened all three of at least tolerating guerrillas of the banned Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Akbulut is likely to seek better policing of the zone.

Another hostage freed in Beirut

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — American hostage Frank Reed was freed in Lebanon Monday by a pro-Iranian group, a senior Syrian official said. He told Reuters that Reed, a 57-year-old headmaster, was handed over to Syrian security men in Beirut at 8.30 p.m. (1730 GMT) and was heading for Damascus.

A previously unknown group the Organisation of Islamic Dawn announced Sunday it would free Reed after nearly four years in captivity.

In Washington, the State Department also confirmed the release.

"We've got confirmation that he's been released and is in Syrian hands in Lebanon," spokeswoman Kim Hoggard said. She gave no other details.

Reed became the second American to be freed by pro-Iranian militants in Beirut in nine days. U.S. professor Robert Polhill was freed April 22 by a shadowy faction calling itself Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine.

Reed was freed one day after the Organisation of Islamic Dawn announced in a statement that it will free the captive within 48 hours and that he will carry a message for the U.S. government.

The statement was authenticated by photographs of Reed,

director of the privately owned Lebanese International School. Reed was being escorted to Damascus by Syrian officers of the Syrian army contingent that controls east and north Lebanon as well as west Beirut, where Reed was kidnapped on Sept. 9, 1986.

The officials would not say where in Beirut the hostage was freed. Journalists crowding the seaside Summerland Hotel in Beirut, where previous hostages were released, said they did not see any hostage.

Reed was to be handed over by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa to U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian later Monday, officials said.

The release of Reed fuelled hopes of early freedom for 15 Westerners believed still in the hands of pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

It was a further sign of a possible end to the hostage drama that began in 1984 with the abduction of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency's Beirut station chief William Buckley. He was later killed.

Iran's state-run radio Monday blamed the West for what it said was the slow pace of efforts to release hostages in the Middle East (see page 2).

In Washington, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said

earlier a U.S. team was being despatched to Wiesbaden, West Germany, to receive Reed. His family would be flown to the U.S. medical faculty there for a reunion.

Tehran Radio said the United States and West Europe could help resolve the hostage crisis by pressing the Lebanese Forces militia for the release of several Iranian captives missing since 1982.

There are six Americans, three Britons, an Irishman, two West Germans, two Swiss nationals and an Italian missing and believed held hostage by pro-Iranians in Lebanon.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Besharati said in Abu Dhabi Monday that Tehran would exert every effort to free Western hostages in Lebanon. He said Iranian influence in Lebanon had secured the release of American Robert Polhill April 22 after 39 months of captivity.

"We in the Islamic Republic of Iran are strongly optimistic that all the Western hostages held in Lebanon will be released," Besharati told Reuters through an interpreter.

Diplomats say the final chapter in the hostage drama began when pragmatist Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani became Iran's president following the death last year of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Shamir launches fiercer attack against Baker plan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in a sign of growing tension with Washington, said Monday that Israel need not accept every Middle East peace proposal of a U.S. secretary of state.

Accused by Washington of creating obstacles to peace, the rightist Likud Party leader countered with his biggest swipe yet at Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

In a radio interview to mark the 42nd anniversary of Israel's creation, the 74-year-old Shamir defended his refusal to "say yes to Baker" which brought down his coalition with the Labour Party in March.

"I must say there is something perhaps ridiculous in the very slogan 'yes to Baker'. What is this 'yes to Baker'?" said Shamir, acting premier until he forms a new government.

"We are happy to cooperate with the U.S. government in the bold effort to reach some sort of agreement with the Arab World in the conflict between us and them."

"But if there is understanding and cooperation between us and

the United States, no one can expect we will accept every proposal or idea of an American secretary of state come what may," Shamir said.

Shamir's refusal to accept the U.S. plan for talks in Cairo led to the collapse of his broad coalition with the Labour Party. Labour left the government and Shamir was defeated on a no-confidence motion in parliament.

In mid-April Labour leader Shimon Peres conceded he was unable to form a new administration dedication to accepting the proposal and Shamir was asked to form another government.

He vowed to stand by his proposal for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But he offered no alternative for advancing talks in Cairo.

Shamir, rejecting the Cairo talks as banned contact with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), denied his hard line would fuel the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising. He told the radio there was no connection.

Israeli troops imposed a curfew to preempt protests by the 650,000 Palestinians of the Gaza Strip. Checkpoints stopped potential West Bank demonstrators.

In its latest rebuke, the United States voiced dismay at Shamir's government for having boosted Jewish settlement in the occupied territories since the departure of the Labour Party.

Washington views as an "obstacle to peace" the 70,000 Jews in settlements among the 1.75 million Palestinians.

In an Israeli Television interview Sunday, Shamir said settlements would continue but only at a pace Israel could afford. He denied plans for a "massive settlement" of Jews in the occupied territories.

He said his chief priority would be finding jobs and housing for an influx of Jews arriving under Soviet emigration reforms.

Meanwhile half a million Israelis — angry over the open political dealing to form a new government — signed petitions asking President Chaim Herzog to set up a commission on changing the electoral system.

Herzog accused politicians of making a mockery of democracy in deals that have included luring defectors, allotting public funds to religious groups and even signing bank guarantees on back promises (see page 2).

Bush aide sees U.S. influence declining in Mideast

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is facing a future where its ability to influence the actions of either friends or foes in the Middle East may be sharply curtailed, a senior U.S. official said Monday.

Richard Haass, special assistant to President George Bush on Near Eastern and South Asian affairs at the National Security Council, told a Washington seminar that the result would be a more dangerous world in which well-armed regional powers would increasingly act independent of superpower restraints.

"The relative distancing of the United States and the Soviet Union from the Middle East may not necessarily always be good. On the contrary, unless regional states act with unprecedented vision, the future could be one of more rather than less conflict at the regional level," Haass said.

Even in a region like the Middle East where the U.S. has vital interests, Washington's ability to control events was already in decline.

"There are simply too many sources of wealth, technology and arms. To stand up and deny military and political support is now less of a threat than it once was," Haass told the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Israel and Iraq provide two recent examples Washington's inability to move events in the direction it desired," he said.

In the case of Israel, months of badgering the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to commit itself to a peace dialogue with Palestinians eventually led to his national unity coalition breaking apart.

The United States is now faced with the prospect of a more right-wing government emerging which would step up settlements in the occupied territories and be even less inclined to move towards peace.

Shamir Monday said there was no way he would accept peace proposals merely because they came from the United States.

"If there is understanding and cooperation between us and the United States, no one can expect we will accept every proposal or idea of an American secretary of state come what may," he said.

The Bush administration finds itself blocked by Congress from cutting the \$3 billion of annual aid it provides to Israel and has resorted to frequent condemnations of individual Israeli actions which have soured relations between the two countries.

In the case of Iraq, the United States has been equally powerless to influence its policies and whose alleged pursuit of nuclear weapons it sees as highly dangerous.

Unions call for new law to better workers' conditions

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) called in a statement issued Monday for a new labour law that can cater to the aspirations of the coming "production stage" and bring about sound and stronger relations between workers and employers.

A new labour law is needed to safeguard the rights of unions, workers and employers, to ensure respect for all international labour regulations and protect labour union activities and freedoms, according to the statement which was issued on the eve of Labour Day Tuesday.

The labour movement in Jordan this year observes Labour Day as the country lives through very difficult economic conditions and under hard employment circumstances dictated by various factors that affected the national economy, the statement noted. It said that the declining purchasing power of the dinar had adversely affected the life of workers and

caused real danger to economic and social security in Jordan.

"The widespread unemployment in almost all professions and the soaring prices of all consumer products have made it difficult for the workers to cope and to buy the basic food commodities," the statement added.

The statement also criticised what it said was "the open assault on the rights and gains of the Jordanian workers" and said that "the presence of foreign workers in the Kingdom is making matters even worse for the national economy."

The statement called for the adoption of a practical strategy that can deal with the problem of unemployment and ensure a decent standard of living for all workers. It also urged the government to open all doors for investment, especially in small size businesses and income-generating projects to help contain this problem. It urged the Ministry of Labour to organise the labour

market in cooperation with labour unions and local organisations.

The statement saluted the Palestinian uprising and voiced the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the face of Israel's practices and called on Jordanian workers to extend all possible assistance to Palestinian workers and labour unions. The statement condemned a recent endorsement by the U.S. Congress of Israel's annexation of Jerusalem as a way of Judaizing the Holy City.

The statement said that "world Zionism hopes to swallow the whole of Palestine through new waves of Jewish immigrants in collaboration with the Soviet Union."

The statement voiced Jordanian workers' full support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in "confronting world Zionism and Israel's allies," and urged all workers in Jordan to express their backing of Iraq's endeavours to protect the Arab Nation.

Arafat seeks Egyptian support for summit call

CAIRO (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat, touring the Middle East to secure support for an Arab League summit on the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, met Monday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman arrived early Monday and met privately with Mubarak for about an hour, then with key aides. Afterwards, Arafat left Mubarak's palace through an exit where he knew reporters were not waiting.

Neither leader nor his spokesman talked with reporters. The subjects of the discussions were not disclosed.

But Arafat has been to Jordan, North Yemen and Saudi Arabia to boost a request by the PLO for an emergency Arab summit to discuss the migration of thousands of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel.

Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria and other Arab countries already have endorsed the summit idea.

Arafat has called the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel a "more dangerous conspiracy than those of 1947 and 1948."

Monday's meeting was Arafat's first with Mubarak in Egypt since relations between Egypt and the PLO cooled slightly in February. Cairo claimed the Palestinians did not condemn sufficiently an attack on an Israeli bus in Egypt that killed nine Israelis.

Tension increased in March. Some Palestinian officials criticised the decision to return the Arab League's headquarters to

Cairo from Tunis, where it was transferred in 1979.

Columnists in state-run newspapers attacked the Palestinian comments. Some went so far as to blame them on Arafat.

Mubarak will visit Damascus Wednesday in the first visit by an Egyptian leader to Syria since 1877 when ties between the two countries were severed, presidential sources said.

Diplomats said he would discuss with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad ways of bringing Syria into efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghezali was quoted Monday as saying that Syria needed to be convinced to take part in the proposed summit, even if it were hosted by Iraq.

"I hope all Arabs will participate in the summit, including Syria. We shall work on convincing Syria to take part in the coming summit, even if it is held in Baghdad," Ghezali told the London-based newspaper Al Hayat.

He said Algeria was committed to attending the summit.

Iraq said Monday that it would have nothing to do with Assad.

Speaking two days before Mubarak visits Damascus on a trip partly aimed at reconciling Iraqi and Syrian Presidents Saddam Hussein and Assad, Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassem said Assad could not be trusted.

Asked at a news conference about a possible revival of the Arab Eastern Front against Israel, Jassem said: "If the revival of the Eastern Front meant Syria, we say we don't trust Hafez Al Assad and any cooperation with him is a loss because he is a liar."

Jassem's remarks come amid diplomatic moves to improve ties between Baghdad and Damascus which deteriorated further when Syria backed Iran in the eight-year Gulf war that ended in August 1988.

Arab media have said Mubarak is keen to see a Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation ahead of the proposed Arab summit.

Political sources in Cairo had speculated that rapprochement could lead to the revival of an Arab Eastern Front against Israel.

Diplomats said Mubarak would also try to heal the rift between Assad and Arafat.

Egypt has so far not commented on the summit proposal.

Arab leaders last met in May 1989 when Mubarak attended Egypt's first Arab League gathering since its membership was frozen in 1979 in protest at its treaty with Israel.

Mubarak and Assad met again last month in Libya.

Saudi Arabia's Al Riyadh daily said Arab states should make sure they had resolved their differences before a summit.

"A call for an Arab summit does not provide practical solutions... the problem is not getting Arab leaders together, but how to treat Arab causes," it said.

Germany optimistic over Soviet stand on unification

BONN (Agencies) — The leaders of both Germans expressed confidence Monday that Moscow would compromise in talks on the future military status of a united German state rather than insist on neutrality.

East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere told a radio interviewer Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed that a united Germany should not be a special case in whatever new security structure is worked out for Europe.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said he was sure Bonn's willingness to help Moscow with trade and cultural exchanges as well as security talks meant a reasonable agreement was possible.

In East Berlin, experts from the two Germanys and the "big four" World War II allies — the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France — discussed the military status issue ahead of the first ministerial meeting of the so-called "two-plus-four" talks Saturday.

The two Germanys have taken almost identical stands since Bonn-backed conservatives swept East Germany's first free polls in



Helmut Kohl

March following the collapse of the Communist-led government.

The six nations will discuss one of the thorniest problems facing German unification: the Soviet Union's insistence that a united Germany remain outside of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Moscow is worried about the implications for the European balance of power if a united Germany belongs to NATO.

The Western allies, including West Germany, say a united Germany must have NATO mem-

bership to ensure a stable, secure Europe in the future.

East Germany has said it is willing to go along with temporary NATO membership if the alliance changes its structure and philosophy to deemphasise military priorities and better reflect warming East-West relations.

Lothar de Maiziere, east Germany's prime minister, met privately Sunday in Moscow with Gorbachev to discuss the issue.

De Maiziere said he told Gorbachev that neutrality was a cold war concept not relevant to the new security set-up Europe was moving towards.

"I think this view was shared immediately," he told West German radio.

De Maiziere said before leaving Moscow Sunday that Gorbachev indicated he may even be prepared to accept NATO membership for a united Germany if the Western alliance made strategic and structural changes.

Kohl, speaking to East Berlin officials in Bonn to negotiate German monetary union, hinted he saw West Germany's ability to boost trade and cultural exchanges with Moscow as a strong card in Bonn's negotiating hand.

Iranian radicals slam 'direct talks' with U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's anti-Western radicals have criticised suggestions that Tehran consider opening direct talks with Washington, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday amid expectations a U.S. hostage will be freed in Lebanon.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Tehran's Kayhan daily as saying in an editorial Sunday that any move toward dialogue with the United States deviated from the teachings of Iran's late revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who died of cancer on June 3.

The editorial was commenting on a suggestion Vice President Ayatollah Mohajerani in an article published in Tehran's Etebat daily Thursday that proposals for direct U.S.-Iranian talks should be considered by the Tehran government.

President Hashemi Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists, is seeking to end Iran's isolation and improve links with the West and the media broadside underlined the opposition he faces from Tehran radicals.

Rafsanjani has been seeking to secure the release of Western hostages held by pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim militants in Lebanon.

Mohajerani's comments followed the April 22 release of American educator Robert Polhill, 55, after 39 months as a captive of a Shi'ite faction in Beirut.

free American Frank Reed "within 48 hours" in a "goodwill gesture."

It said Reed, 57, will carry a message for the U.S. government, but gave no details.

The Tehran Times, an English-language daily associated with Rafsanjani, Sunday quoted an unidentified Iranian official as saying Reed's promised release followed "extensive talks" between Tehran and the kidnappers.

Kayhan warned that any dialogue with the United States will mean "burying" the achievements of Khomeini's 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the pro-Western shah and a major retreat.

It said Mohajerani's suggestion amounted to urging Tehran to stop "fighting against the arrogance," the word Iranians use to describe the United States and its allies, and to bow down to the Americans and the West.

It would also signal "accepting the rule of opponents of (Khomeini's) divine rule and destruction of the revolution," Kayhan declared.

The radical Jomhuri Islami daily also lashed out at Mohajerani's "deviation," IRNA reported.

The leader of Iran's radicals, former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, wrote in a Kayhan commentary that Mohajerani's article was "begging for mercy from the great Satan," the Iranian epithet for the United States.

Eritrean rebels claim capture of 3rd town

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in northern Ethiopia said Monday they had captured another town in Eritrea province where rebel forces are advancing on the provincial capital Asmara from the south.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said its forces wiped out the army garrison at Diga, 70 kilometres south of Asmara, Sunday.

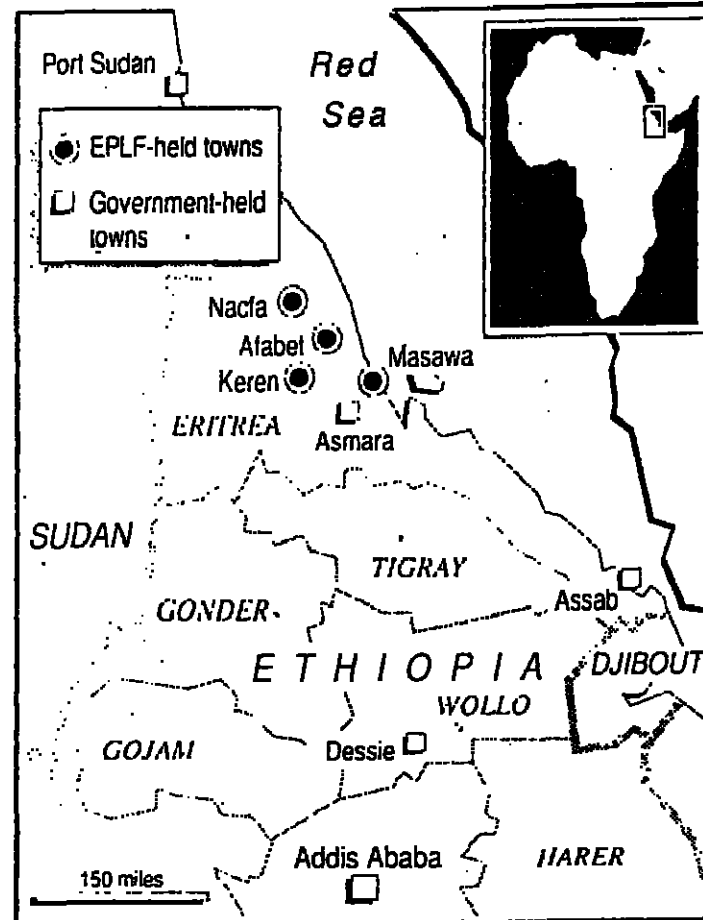
It was the third town in southern Eritrea which the EPLF claims to have captured last week, following Senafe and Adi Kayeh. All three are on the main road leading south from Asmara towards Addis Ababa, the capital.

EPLF spokesman Yemane Gebre Meskel told Reuters by telephone from London that he had no details of casualties.

Ethiopia's Soviet-backed government has not confirmed the fall of Diga, Adi Kayeh and Senafe. But it announced Friday that rebel forces had opened a new front in southern Eritrea.

The Council of State said in a statement the appearance of a new front was "very alarming" and had brought the civil war in Eritrea "to a dangerous stage."

Yemane said the EPLF adv-



ance in southern Eritrea meant rebel forces were now able to threaten the right flank of government forces trying to push down the main road from Asmara to the Red Sea port of Massawa.

The EPLF captured Massawa in February, reducing the government-held area of Eritrea to a landlocked enclave which can only be supplied by air.

There was heavy fighting in April at Ghinda, 70 kilometres inland from Massawa, as the army tried to break through the EPLF frontlines and recapture the strategic port.

The EPLF said it repulsed these attacks, killing more than 6,500 government soldiers.

The EPLF is fighting for the independence of Eritrea, a former Italian colony which was federated with Ethiopia in 1952 and fully integrated with the country 10 years later.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEF

Lithuania seeks ties with Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Lithuania, struggling for its independence from the Soviet Union, has asked for relations with Israel on the 42nd independence day of the Jewish state. Israeli President Chaim Herzog's office said Sunday it received a message from President Vytautas Landsbergis of the rebel republic that declared independence on March 11. Moscow itself has restored only limited ties with Israel since severing relations over the 1967 Middle East war. Landsbergis's message condemned crimes against the Jews during the Nazi German occupation of Lithuania in World War II when the Jewish population was nearly wiped out. Lithuania was doing all it could to renew and develop Jewish cultural and religious life, the message said.

Arab population growth outpaces Jews

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Jewish population grew by 2.2 per cent in the past year but did not keep pace with the rate of increase among Arabs, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. The bureau said the non-Jewish population rose by 3.03 per cent and includes 665,000 Muslims, 107,000 Christians and 78,000 Druze. Jews make up 3.755 million of an estimated 4.6 million population, about 81.5 per cent of the total. The bureau said 49,000 immigrants and potential immigrants had arrived in Israel since the last April 30 compared to 14,500 in the previous year. Immigration has been bolstered by the influx of Soviet Jews.

Qadhafi stalks off stage at 'celebration'

SIDRA, Libya (AP) — Peeved at a faulty microphone, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi stalked out of a celebration of a Libyan military victory Sunday, leaving thousands of supporters and international guests bewildered. Qadhafi had made elaborate preparations for the festivities, which drew Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat. Dozens of diplomats and members of pro-Libyan European organisations were flown to this city on the Mediterranean coast. Journalists from around Europe also invited to the ceremonies marking the 75th anniversary of a Libyan victory over Italian colonial forces. When Qadhafi went to the front of a stage erected at the site of the 1915 battle, he was cheered by about 5,000 supporters, including dozens of turbaned nomads on camels. But after trying twice to speak without success, he glared at the microphone and stalked off the stage. Aides had said he planned a speech about domestic policy.

Accidents kill 75 people in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — Seventy-five people were killed in road crashes during the Eid Al Fitr feast in Turkey, which according to Turkish officials has the world's highest traffic-accident death rate. Traffic officials said 10 people died in road crashes Sunday, when hundreds of thousands of Turks left coastal resorts on the last day of the four-day holiday marking the end of Ramadan. Ten children were among those killed in traffic accidents, six from the same family of nine that perished when their car plunged down a steep hill near an Istanbul motorway Friday. Officials say Turkey's average death rate of 4,055 people per one million vehicles is the highest in the world, followed by Portugal with 1,171 and Yugoslavia with 1,169 per million. More than 40,000 people have died in road accidents in Turkey since 1983.

Ankara to prevent May Day rallies

ANKARA (R) — Turkish police will be out in force in Istanbul Tuesday to prevent any illegal May Day rallies following riots last year. "No demonstrations will be allowed in Istanbul. We have taken precautions against all possibilities," Istanbul police spokesman Halis Bogurcu told Reuters Monday. One person was killed and 36 were wounded, some by gunfire, in May Day unrest last year in central Taksim Square, a traditional rallying point for leftist and other demonstrators. At least one trade union branch has said it will defy an order by the Turk-Lib confederation, representing two thirds of Turkey's three million unionised workers, not to hold outdoor rallies. Bogurcu said 18,000 armed policemen, many with dogs, would be on duty and security forces from elsewhere in the country would be on standby. Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut said Sunday that no demonstrations would be allowed in Turkey Tuesday. Police in Ankara have said they detained 18 members of an illegal left-wing group called "the partisan" who had been planning May Day violence.

Blast at Addis Ababa Hilton denied

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopian rebels said Monday that a bomb damaged the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa Saturday, but a manager at the hotel denied the report. The clandestine radio of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said the Hilton, the premier hotel in Addis Ababa, had been damaged by a bomb planted by unidentified opponents of the government. The broadcast, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said no one was injured in the blast. However, a senior manager at the Addis Ababa Hilton, contacted by telephone from Nairobi, described the report as totally untrue. "There was not any explosion here," the manager told Reuters, asking not to be identified by name.

Chad: 2,000 opponents heading for attack

PARIS (R) — Chad has said 2,000 Libyan-based troops were heading for Sudan, from where they intended to launch a cross-border attack on Chadian army positions. Chad's embassy in Paris said in a statement a column of the Libyan Islamic Legion left its base at Koufra in Libya Saturday for the Darfur region of northern Sudan bordering Chad. "The objective of this column is to attack positions of the Chadian army at the border with Sudan," the statement said. "Libya has once again displayed its desire to continue its policy of annexation and of dismantling Chad." Relations between Chad and Libya, which improved last year after the two signed an agreement over the disputed Aouzou Strip on the border between the two countries, have taken a nosedive.

Algerian army to keep ban on beards and veils

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian army will maintain a ban on the wearing of beards and veils by medical staff in its military hospital in Algiers despite criticism from Islamic fundamentalists, the Defence Ministry said Monday.

"Measures taken by the military authorities remain valid, because they conform with Islam, individual liberty and army regulations," the ministry said in a statement published by the local media.

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), a radical political party, called Saturday for the military hospital authorities to be prosecuted because it said the ban on beards and veils was contrary to Islamic values.

Ahmad Sahouni, an 83-year-old fundamentalist leader, wrote a statement read out in mosques last week in which he said the army's decision was "a grave precedent that threatens fundamental freedoms."

The Defence Ministry said the army rejected his interpretation and that his remarks were subversive.

"The army's action is inspired by Islamic values at all times and in all places however difficult, without accepting any partisan recommendations which it refuses because they are pointless and also subversive," the ministry said.

After being a powerful ally of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) party for a quarter of a century, the army withdrew from politics in March 1989.

Army members resigned from the FLN's Central Committee when President Chadli Benjedid introduced a multi-party system and abandoned its political role which was described as "the shield of the revolution."

There has almost never been so overwhelming a public protest," Herzog said.

"The citizen who has the democratic right to choose his representatives freely cannot react calmly when political machinations make an absolute mockery of the principles of democracy."

Israel television said half a million Israelis — 11 per cent of the total population — had signed petitions asking Herzog to set up a presidential commission on changing the electoral system.

The president chided Israelis for failing to properly accommodate an average influx of 6,000 Soviet Jews a month under Soviet reforms — an occurrence he called "a miracle" after years of nominal Soviet emigration.

"One wonders how we were not prepared for the massive immigration we know to be imminent," he said.

Bashir links rebels with abortion coup

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military ruler has linked rebels in south Sudan with last week's aborted coup but pledged to keep up peace contacts with them.

Speaking at a news conference amid tight security, Lt.-Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir also accused leaders of the failed coup of planning to abolish the existing Islamic Sharia Laws and vowed there would never be a secular state in Sudan.

They were "targeting to abolish the 1983 Sharia Laws and introduce in their place the 1974 secular laws but there will never be secular laws in Sudan Insha'allah (God willing). The question has been settled once and for all," he said.

He said documents and evidence found with the plotters revealed they planned to assassinate leaders of political parties he dissolved after seizing power in a military coup June 30 and blame his 15-man junta for the action.

The perpetrators were "a coalition of leftist elements within the dissolved political parties," Bashir said.

They planned to eliminate all junta members and other public figures in addition to leaders of disbanded political parties, he alleged.

"We have laid our hands on a comprehensive list containing those who would have been executed," Bashir added.

Officials of Bashir's government have earlier said that the two-stage foiled attempt was a conspiracy between rebellious officers and politicians who issued an underground anti-junta declaration late last year.

The document sought the overthrow of the junta and drafting of a constitution as steps toward returning partisan politics to Sudan with participation of rebels fighting a civil war for seven years in the south to demand greater autonomy and economic reforms.

Election campaign starts in Kuwait

MANAMA (AP) — Kuwait's election campaign for the transitional 75-member national council started Sunday, undeterred by a bloc of former parliamentarians who oppose the new body as unconstitutional.

The state-run radio and television repeatedly broadcast the decree by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, summoning the electorate to the poll on June 10 to vote in the 50 elected members of the new body. The other 25 will be appointed by the government. Sunday was the last day of a three-day holiday marking the Muslim feast of Eid Al Fitr which ended the Ramadan month of fasting. Prospective candidates began using the traditional Eid gatherings to play their election cards.

The emir decree, as the ruler indicated when he launched the transitional body on April 22, maintained the 25 constituencies of the previous elections, with two candidates for each, and opened the door to nominations by Kuwaiti nationals of 30 years of age.

Young men who reached the age of 21 were entitled to register to vote.

Women are not permitted to run for elections or vote.

Kuwaiti newspapers said they expected some 500 candidates to enlist for the election.

But the bloc of 32 opposition former parliamentarians, who now call themselves the "constitutional bloc" were adamant on the rejection they issued a few hours after the emir announced

the formation of the Transitional Council on April 22.

A copy of their statement was telefaxed to news agencies in Bahrain.

"This transitional body is not born from the womb of the constitution," said Ahmad Al Saadoun, the speaker of the parliament dissolved in 1986 and leader of the opposition bloc.

"It is not constitutional and it is a matter of principle that we reject it," he added in a telephone contact from Bahrain with the Associated Press.

Asked if the government was trying to persuade them to compromise or change their mind, he replied: "There is no government contact with us, and we have made no contact with the government."

Their bloc had also attempted to use the Eid gatherings to organise rallies, against the government decision. But Saadoun reported that from the first morning of the feast after the prescribed dawn prayers, the police cordoned off his home grounds to prevent the gathering and then used tear gas to disperse the crowds that tried to meet instead at the home of Deputy Speaker Saleh Al Fadalla.

A day after the emir launched the new body, the Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah warned that political rallies were categorically rejected as illegal gatherings with which the police would have to deal.

Saadoun said the boycott decision of his bloc was "final" as they would accept nothing less than the bases laid out in Kuwait's 1962 constitution, in force since independence.

A transitional body in itself meant suspension of the constitution, while the proposed council had no legislative powers, he said. "This body has less powers than even a consultative council," he said.

He noted that for example the new body had no right to legislate but only to initiate legislation. The opposition bloc and other pro-democracy activists had started campaigning for the return of the parliament last year, although Saadoun insisted that they began their drive immediately after the suspension in 1986.

The suspension, as one in 1976 which lasted for four years, was sparked by the vitriolic criticism by the parliamentarians of government ministers.

The emir decreed the transitional body to pursue the quest of a democracy that would see no more crises between government and legislature.

He specified a four-year term for the body, while his crown prince indicated the term might be shortened if the National Council completed its task beforehand.

Government newspapers meanwhile are reporting wide popular support for the emir's move, while pro-government newspapers are attacking the opposition ranks.

Iran rules out resumption of Gulf war

ABU DHABI (R) — Chances of a resumption in fighting between Iran and Iraq are near zero despite the stalemate in the peace talks since the Gulf war ceasefire in August 1988, Iran's deputy foreign minister said Monday.

"The two sides have embarked on rebuilding war-damaged facilities and this shows their keenness on peace. I believe the prospects for a new war at this moment are near zero," Ali Mohammad Besharati told a news conference.

The Iranian official, on a visit to the United Arab Emirates in the course of a Gulf tour, said Iran was ready for talks with Iraq under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"But to accept direct and separate negotiations without defining the subjects to be discussed is out of question because this will not lead to any results," Besharati said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati last met his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz in Geneva in April 1989 in U.N.-mediated peace talks which have made little progress since they began after the ceasefire.

A U.N. spokesman said Friday that Perez de Cuellar would meet Aziz in an undisclosed European city in May to arrange for the resumption of the negotiations.

Velayati told reporters in New York last week that Iraq created obstacles in the implementation of a Security Council peace resolution

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News summary in Arabic
15:55 Local programme
15:58 Agricultural programme
16:00 News in French
16:05 Programme review
16:10 News in Arabic
16:15 Arabic stories
16:20 Programme review
16:25 Local programme
16:30 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Ulysses Au Pays de Merveille
18:15 Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
18:25 L'appart
18:30 News in French
18:35 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
18:40 News in Hebrew
18:45 News in Arabic
18:50 News in Arabic
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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swedisch Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church Tel. 623266.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625385, Tel. 637440.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assamen International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Clouds appear at different altitudes and a drop in temperatures will occur with a change of local scattered showers. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be dusty with northerly fresh wind and wavy sea.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ali Al'ad 897919
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 746070
Dr. Mohammad Azam 819925
Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim 896294
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Neiroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Youssef pharmacy 637660

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Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

08:30 Bangkok (RJ)

10:00 Jeddah (RJ)

10:00 Baghdad (RJ)

10:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:15 Amman (RJ)

10:30 Cairo (RJ)

10:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

11:00 Kuwait (RJ)

11:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)

18:45 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

20:00 Tripoli (RJ)

21:45 Rome (RJ)

22:00 Rome (RJ)

01:00 Paris (add.) (RJ)

02:10 Jeddah (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Kuwait to grant Jordan loan for industrial, tourism projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to get a loan of five million Kuwaiti dinars (KD) to help finance industrial schemes and tourism projects carried out by the private sector in the Kingdom, according to an agreement signed in Amman Monday by the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

The KD 5 million (JD 10.25 million) loan at 3.5 per cent interest rate repayable over 17 years with a five year grace period will be settled through 24, 6-month instalments beginning July 1, 1995 and ending January 1, 2007, according to the terms of the agreement.

The loan carries an extra 0.5 per cent interest to cover management cost.

The loan, to be channelled through the IDB with the Jordanian government serving as guarantor, will finance projects conducted by the private sector between 1990 and 1993, according to the loan agreement which

was earlier approved by the council of ministers.

A statement following the signing ceremony said the loans would encourage investments in the industrial sector and in tourism projects in Jordan.

The statement estimated the overall investments in industry and tourism over the coming four years to reach KD 28.2 million, with 18 per cent of the amount provided by KFAED.

The loan agreement Monday was signed by Minister of Planning Aouni Al Masri, IDB Director Taher Kanaan and KFAED Director General Bader Al Humidi in the presence of senior officials from all concerned parties.

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Municipality to solve Ruseifa dump problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greater Amman Municipality has taken practical steps to deal with problems resulting from the presence of a garbage dump near the town of Ruseifa which had been the centre of public controversy and cause for an outcry from the local citizens.

The Greater Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat chaired the meeting of a special committee charged with dealing with the problem and later, accompanied by committee members, toured the dumping grounds.

A statement, following the meetings, said the committee reviewed a survey about the old dumping ground not far from the present site and the existing garbage dump where waste is being dumped and covered by earth.

Local citizens have been complaining about the bad smell emanating from the dumping ground, and just before 'Eid Al Fitr staged a sit-in at the site, blocking entrances and preventing trucks from reaching the ground.



Residents of Ruseifa staged a protest at a garbage dumping site near the town and prevented garbage trucks from dumping garbage there which they

said was harming their health and the environment (J.T. photos)

Last week Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi said an urgent study was under way to find a solution to the problems caused by the garbage dump near Ruseifa, located between Amman and Azraq.

He said the problem would be fully examined and the dumping area would be shifted to a distant ground in a bid to safeguard public health.

Before the mayor went on a tour of the area, the committee members heard a report from the municipality's department in charge of cleanliness about the manner in which the garbage is dumped and the bad smell and gases which emanate from the site.

According to the statement, the mayor had asked for a study on the cause of gases and smell to be conducted with the help of the

Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Ministry of Health.

The committee has scheduled another meeting with the mayor to be held at the municipality Monday to review the situation.

The committee comprises representatives of the ministries of planning, health, water and irrigation, the RSS, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the municipalities of Ruseifa, Zarqa and Amman.

Ajlouni to head NMI

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Monday named Dr. Nael Ajlouni as acting director-general of the National Medical Institution (NMI) following the resignation earlier this month of Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali who had served as NMI director since last November.

Ajlouni had until his new appointment served as deputy director under Majali and his predecessor Dr. Daoud Hanania, who had been appointed as member of the senate after last November's general elections. Majali resigned his post on April 8, 1990 in the midst of a controversy over the NMI's mismanagement and failure to fulfil its mission.

Shortly after his resignation,

Majali was quoted by the local press as saying that he would be willing to change his mind and remain NMI director provided that the institution received sufficient support and funds.

"The NMI's statute should be modernised, and a unified medical insurance system should be applied in the country as preconditions for my return to the institution," Majali said.

He said the NMI was functioning under very difficult circumstances and in the absence of essential laws despite the lapse of three years since its establishment.

The NMI is necessary, he said, to raise the standard of medical staff and to improve hospital services in Jordan.

Press reports had said that the NMI, which is now responsible for all hospitals, would soon be dissolved.

A detailed study conducted by the NMI in May 1988 revealed that JD 80 million were needed annually to maintain good services and provide sufficient medical care for the public.

The study also reflected NMI's plans for developing the existing hospitals in two stages and the establishment of small-size hospitals in several regions.

The NMI started operations in July 1988 when all hospitals operated by the Ministry of Health, the Armed Forces and the Jordanian universities came under its direct control.

Upon its inception, NMI



Nael Ajlouni

Director-General Daoud Hanania said the institution would supervise health security schemes adopted by the Ministry of Health and the Armed Forces and would later unify them into one system.

JD 10 million allocated for development plans

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Planning announced Monday it would shortly start contacts with various government departments to provide them with documents of projects that have been selected and given priority for implementation over the coming two years.

At least JD 10 million will be the total amount to be spent on development schemes under this plan and the sum has been raised from differences on interest loans granted to the Jordanian government and from technical assistance of different sources, according to the announcement.

Following approval of this plan by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, a special committee comprising representatives of planning and finance ministries was created and held its first meeting on April 24 during which final arrangements for the implementation of the plan were endorsed, the announcement said.

It said the committee would discuss with various concerned departments projects to be implemented in accordance with a list of priorities already drawn up by the committee in cooperation with the money lending institutions.

The announcement said the plan was bound to create jobs and stimulate the economy.

Under the current economic restructuring programme, the Jordanian government has acquired several loans through the help of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The latest such loan to be obtained during 1990 according to an IMF-Jordanian government agreement earlier this month, was \$369 million. Of this sum, \$44 million will come as a standby IMF credit, a \$150 million from the World Bank, another loan from the Japanese government for the same amount, and \$25 million from the West German government.

Jordan celebrates King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional power

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Wednesday celebrates the 37th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers.

Since assuming his duties in 1953 King Hussein has been devoting his time and efforts to serving his country and the Arab Nation, and his relentless endeavours have been rewarded with development and progress in Jordan.

Under the leadership of King Hussein, Jordan has won world-wide respect and now enjoys stability and security which contribute to the Kingdom's progress and development.

On the eve of the anniversary, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, issued a statement referring in particular to the fact that the Kingdom, this year, observes the anniversary while enjoying an atmosphere of democracy, en-



HM King Hussein

banced with stability and self-confidence.

King Hussein has acted as a model for Jordanian citizens by wisely steering his country to-

wards stability and progress in the face of immense challenges, the agency said.

It referred to the projected National Charter as the umbrella for all political orientations and groupings to pool their resources and pursue development and progress in Jordan.

The agency also said that the principles of the Great Arab Revolt will remain a beacon guiding the nation.

The 1987 summit in Amman paved the way for the birth of inter-Arab cooperation at all levels and the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Jordan and three other Arab states: Egypt, Iraq, N. Yemen, the agency said.

Petra also referred to King Hussein's relentless efforts at all levels to serve the Palestine cause and to pursue efforts in support of the Palestinian uprising.

Pharmacists' conference to discuss last decade growth

AMMAN (J.T.) — A working paper dealing with Jordan's Pharmaceutical Industries in the last decade of the 20th century will be among 18 different papers to be reviewed by participants at the fifth Jordanian pharmacists conference to open Wednesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, according to Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) President Tayseer Al Himsi.

"The three-day conference will be attended by nearly 500 pharmacists representing pharmacist unions in various Arab countries," Himsi told a press conference held here Monday.

"A total of 15 working papers dealing with a wide variety of topics mainly focusing on the medicine industry and marketing in the Arab World will be presented by Jordan's delegation," said Abdul Munem Al Khoulil, the conference chairman.

He told the press conference that, national pharmaceutical industries have over the past two decades, succeeded in producing a good variety of medicines proving their ability to compete in the foreign markets.

"A proposal on boosting par-



Tayseer Al Himsi

Arab pharmaceutical industries to cover the needs of all Arab markets over a period of four years will be among the important issues to be taken up at the meeting which was organised by the JPA," Khoulil said earlier in a statement to the Jordan Times.

He said that invitations had gone out to all unions in the Arab World to take part in the conference which is expected to come up with important resolutions.

Khoulil also pointed out that the soaring prices of imported medicines due to the devaluation of the Jordanian currency and disagreements with the Ministry of Health over pricing imported drugs will be on the minds of the Jordanian participants, who are bound to bring up this important topic during the conference.

According to Khoulil, the conference this year will be held under the slogan: medicine: between national industry and imports.

Statistics available to the Jordan Times indicate that Jordan imported drugs worth JD 18 million in 1988 while production of local pharmaceutical manufacturing companies was worth JD 4.5 million.

Golf championship starts today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Open Golf Championship sponsored by Jordan Intercontinental Hotel will be staged Tuesday at Al-Bisharat golf course on the airport road. Some 60 participants are expected to take part in the championship.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince condoles Al Dajani family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday delegated the director of his office Michel Hamarneh to convey condolences to Al Dajani family over the death of the mother of the former interior minister, Raja'i Al Dajani.

Badran receives ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office Monday the ambassadors of Philippines, China and India to Jordan. The Prime Minister discussed in separate meetings with the ambassadors relations of friendship and cooperation between Jordan and their respective countries and ways to promote these relations.

Dughmi to investigate alleged violations

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi decided to hold an investigation in several cases concerning the works of Ramtha municipality which were included in a memo presented by six members of Ramtha municipal council in its meeting chaired by Dughmi Monday. The minister said the investigation will probe into works by the municipality since the beginning of the '80s till now in order to know whether these cases form administrative, financial or legal violations. If violations were proven, the minister said, the proper measures will be taken.

Deputy to attend seminar in Tripoli

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament member Bassam Haddadin will take part in a special symposium held to com-

memorate the assassination of Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad). Haddadin's participation in the symposium, which will be held Tuesday in Tripoli, Libya, comes upon an invitation from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Arab people conference. Haddadin left for Tripoli Monday.

Jordanian gets award scholarship

AMMAN (J.T.) — Berklee College of Music has awarded a \$2,000 scholarship vocalist Shireen Abu Khader of Amman, Jordan, for the upcoming 1990 academic year. The prestigious award is provided by the Berklee Professional Music Scholarship Fund which grants scholarships to outstanding musicians who have demonstrated the very highest levels of ability. Berklee offers degrees and diplomas in such innovative areas of study as music production and engineering, music synthesis, songwriting, and film scoring, as well as in performance, composition & arranging, and music education. A partial roster of prominent Berklee alumni includes multi-Grammy award winning record producer, Quincy Jones; celebrated saxophonist, Branford Marsalis; poll-winning jazz guitarist, John Scofield; and preeminent film and TV composer, Alan Silvestri, famed for his "Back to the Future," scores.

Charity bazaar opens in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — A charity bazaar was opened Monday at Al Awda club in Zarqa. The bazaar which is organised by the club's orphans' committee displays wood and brassworks, ceramics, photos and paintings depicting the local environment as well as Islamic and cultural books. The proceeds of the eight-day bazaar will benefit orphaned children.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

THEATRE

* Children play in Arabic entitled "Al Shaked" (The Whims) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

FILM

* Art programme on "The New York school" at the American Centre — 6:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

* Arabic poetry recital by Khaleel Al Saket Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

DIALOGUE

* Live Worldnet dialogue via satellite on "Diabetes and Endocrinology" on Wednesday at the American Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

MAP

جمعية العون الطبي للفلسطينيين / الاردن

Under the Patronage of H.R.H. Crown Prince Al-Hassan

Join

M.A.P.'s Sponsor Walk Friday 11 / 5 / 1990

* Starts at: 8.30 a.m. Jordan Intercontinental Hotel

* Finishes at: "Souk Balaad" * (Khalil Saket / Al-Hassan)

In Cooperation with: Hotel Jordan Intercontinental & S.A.W.

لزيادة من المعلومات يرجى الاتصال بمقام 711-76

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الجordanية المستقلة المنشورة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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Labour and progress — a joint effort

TODAY Jordan joins the international community in celebrating Labour Day with an added determination to recognise the rights as well as duties of workers. This commemoration is indeed timely for Jordan as labour constitutes the backbone of its efforts to address its economic woes and financial difficulties.

It goes without saying that without harmonious relations between labour and management, the country's efforts to stand up on its feet will always be in jeopardy. That is why the Kingdom must continue to strike and maintain an equitable balance between the inalienable rights of labourers and the rights of the Jordanian society for honest and productive work from them. The list of the rights of workers are well enshrined in the International Labour Office's conventions and rules and regulations that Jordan has signed and ratified. Unfortunately, not all of these rights are duly observed and respected in Jordan.

There are still many omissions in Jordanian legislation and practices vis-a-vis Jordanian workers which do not tally with international norms. Sexual discrimination, child labour and unfair wages and work conditions are but samples of the ongoing wrongs perpetrated against workers in Jordan. Foreign workers, especially maids, are often exploited and subject to unfair treatment by their employers. All such abuses need to be rectified and today's commemoration of Labour Day is as an auspicious occasion to begin the process of healing the wounds inflicted on workers in Jordan, be they locals or foreigners.

Above all, a more determined effort must be made in these trying times when unemployment is rampant and cost of living is reaching outrageous levels to alleviate the suffering of workers in this country. By the same token, the country calls on its workers to help themselves and their cause by increasing their productivity by acquiring the culture for hard work.

Admittedly, productivity is not the sole concern of workers and the employed but rather the responsibility of management as well to provide the necessary working environment which is conducive for high productivity and efficient work. This is an added reason why workers and management must strive to have a continuous dialogue in order to put labour-management relations on the right course. To this end, labour unions need to put their house in order before such a constructive relations can be maintained. In this vein labour unions may wish not to press for their well enshrined right to strike in view of the precarious economic conditions in the country. With production in industry at less than 45 per cent capacity, it would be unopportunity for workers to resort to their rights to strike at this stage. But in order for the country to demand of its workers to hold back their right to strike it must be prepared to meet their basic needs, especially in terms of fair wages and unemployment benefits.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Monday said that the Israelis are intent on committing suicide because they are choosing to pursue aggression and maintain occupation of Arab land in Palestine. The paper said that no matter whether the new Israeli government is formed by the Likud or Labour it has become clear to the world community that the Israelis are oriented towards war rather than peace, and that the path they want to pursue can only lead to further destruction and violence in the Middle East. The most conspicuous sign towards this tendency towards war with the Arabs is Yitzhak Shamir's first statement upon receiving a new mandate to form a government in which he stated clearly his total rejection of the United States' proposals and disregard of Arab rights in their homeland in Palestine, the paper noted. It said that failure on the part of Shimon Peres to form a Labour-led government in Israel, and the transfer of the mandate to Shamir have placed the world once again face to face with the military option and renewed conflict which can only have serious consequences on all peoples of the Middle East and the future of peace. The fanatic Israeli prime minister believes that through sheer might and nuclear power, Israel can maintain its occupation of the whole of Palestine and can subjugate the Arabs to its will, the paper continued. We are viewing the developments in Israel closely and we believe that should the extremists be allowed to hold on to the leadership of the Israeli society, that society is bound to be facing grave consequences and the prospects of war, the paper concluded.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments on Moscow's attitude vis-a-vis the Middle East situation in the light of a visit there by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Abdul Rahim Omar says that the Soviet Union has issued a warning against Israel's nuclear capability and its dangers to world peace, and it also condemned the U.S. Congress's decision which endorsed Israel's annexation of the city of Jerusalem calling on the United States to cancel that decision, the writer notes. The Soviet Union has now stressed that the Soviet Jewish immigration should be coupled with the safeguarding of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland, the writer adds. These statements, the writer believes will not doubt have their impact on Moscow's relations with Washington and Tel Aviv and would affect the ongoing immigration process. These signals, he notes, should prompt the Arab countries to renew their contacts with Moscow and the Eastern European countries to put forth the Arab cause rather than leaving matters in the hands of the world Zionism.

Al Dustour daily said that Israel which is celebrating its 42nd anniversary looks to the world now as a rather racist nation ruled by extremists and fanatics bent on pursuing the course of conflict. The paper said that after 42 years of existence, Israel is still at a crossroads, having usurped Palestinian land and maintained its occupation of the holy places in Jerusalem and rejected all calls for peace.

Moscow and Tel Aviv: the relationship deepens

By Robert O. Freedman

DESPITE the recent Soviet decision to postpone the inauguration of direct flights between the USSR and Israel, and the essentially symbolic raising of the PLO mission in Moscow to embassy status, there has been a major improvement in Soviet-Israeli relations over the last two years. Indeed, relations had begun to improve in 1987 prior to the intifada and improved still further in 1988 and 1989 in spite of it.

On the diplomatic front, Moscow's actions in 1988 included permission for an Israeli consular delegation to come to the Soviet Union (a Soviet consular delegation had arrived in Israel in July 1987), public comments by Gorbachev to Arafat that Israel's interests had to be taken into account in any peace settlement, the assertion by a senior Soviet diplomat that in a Palestinian-Israeli settlement Palestinian refugees could only return to the West Bank-Gaza state, not to Israel proper, and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Shamir in New York. At the same time, Moscow sharply increased the number of Soviet Jews permitted to leave the USSR to 18,965 in 1988. And, in December 1988, for the first time since the 1967 war, gave Israel favourable media coverage.

In 1989, despite the formation of a Likud-led "national unity" government at the end of 1988, Soviet-Israeli relations improved still further. In addition to a major increase in cultural and athletic contacts and other forms of "people-to-people" diplomacy, including exchange visits of

scholars and chief rabbis, by January 1990 the pace of diplomatic contacts had quickened as well, with no fewer than three meetings between Shevardnadze and Israel's new foreign minister, Moshe Arens, and visits by three Israeli cabinet ministers to Moscow. The two countries, however, still differed strongly over the Middle East peace process; there was a negative Soviet reaction to the Shamir peace proposal; and Israel sharply protested the Soviet sale of SU-24s to Libya.

Interestingly a number of Soviet Union republics, especially in the Baltic and Transcaucasia, were to play a role in Soviet-Israeli relations, as they demonstrated their increasing autonomy from Moscow, and also sought to gain trade benefits. For its part, the central government in Moscow also began the process of reestablishing trade relations with Israel. In September the two countries signed a chamber of commerce agreement and in November a large-scale agreement on the Israeli sale of agricultural produce to the USSR was signed. Another sign of improving Soviet-Israeli relations in 1989 was the sharp increase in the number of Soviet Jews both leaving the USSR (71,000) and, because of immigration limits in the United States, arriving in Israel (11,000). While Moscow facilitated the exit of almost all Jews wanting to leave, it backed off from its promise of direct flights, in part because of rising Arab opposition and in part because of a statement by Shamir that appeared to use the sharp increase in the number of Soviet Jews arriving in Israel to justify continued occupation of the West

Bank and Gaza.

Improving the Soviet image

There appear to be four major factors in the improvement in relations — Middle East politics, Soviet-American relations, the Soviet interest in expanded foreign trade, and, to a lesser extent, the impact of Soviet public opinion. When Gorbachev took office, the Middle East peace process appeared to be well under way as a result of the Jordan-PLO agreement of February 1985 and U.S. efforts to broker a Palestinian-Jordanian negotiating team acceptable to Israel. Consequently, Gorbachev, a far more flexible leader than his predecessors, felt an opening to enter the peace process from which it had been excluded since 1973. While these moves came to a halt because of the break between Jordan and the PLO, Moscow continued its contacts with Israel, because it was seeking Israeli support for an international peace conference which Gorbachev, as his predecessors, felt was the best way to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict (and enhance the Soviet position in the Middle East in the process). Moscow stepped up its efforts throughout 1988 and 1989 to try to convince Israel to enter an international conference — holding out the bait of resuming full diplomatic relations — despite the intifada, while urging Israel's main enemies, PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Syrian leader Hafiz Al Assad, to settle their conflict with Israel politically and not by war. Indeed, Assad was told explicitly by Moscow that it

would not help Syria gain military parity with Israel.

Moscow's opening to Israel was due not only to its interest in joining the Middle East peace process, but also because it wanted to influence public opinion in the United States. Following the CPSU party conference in February 1986, with his position in the Communist party reinforced, Gorbachev set about major economic and political reforms in the USSR. For his programme to succeed, however, particularly at a time of declining hard currency earnings due to the drop in oil prices, Gorbachev clearly wanted to slow down the arms race to free resources for the lagging Soviet economy. He was also interested in getting credits from the U.S., as well as investments in joint enterprises, and this necessitated changes in the Jackson-Vanik and Stevenson Amendments. Given the fact that Moscow has long overestimated Jewish influence in the United States, and that it understands the close tie between American Jewry and the state of Israel, Soviet gestures to Israel seemed aimed at improving the Soviet image in the United States for arms control purposes and positioning Moscow for U.S. trade benefits.

The trade factor

Third, trade has emerged as a factor, albeit a still limited one, in Soviet-Israeli relations. With the Soviet economy experiencing serious shortages, particularly of food, trade with Israel, both by the Soviet central government and by its increasingly assertive Union republics, may provide a

mechanism whereby some of these shortages can be partially alleviated. In addition, Israel's high-tech medical equipment industry may help the USSR improve the quality of its health care delivery system — another major problem facing Moscow — while Israeli experience in water management and in growing crops in saline soil will be of major assistance to the USSR's Central Asian republics which face serious problems because of soil salinity.

Finally, one now cannot overlook the impact of Soviet public opinion on Soviet foreign policy. With Gorbachev seeking to transfer power from the party to a popularly elected parliament, and Shevardnadze now making an annual report to parliament on Soviet foreign policy, the attitudes of the Soviet "man in the street" are becoming a factor, if not yet a major one, in Soviet foreign policy. While some of this popular opinion is clearly anti-Semitic, other Soviet citizens have been very favourably impressed by Israeli help to the USSR during the 1988 hijacking affair, in the Armenian earthquake relief effort when Israel both sent rescuers and then treated casualties in Israeli hospitals, and in the aftermath of the Transiberian train wreck when Israeli doctors treated Soviet burn victims.

Reinforcing the pro-Israeli turn in Soviet public opinion — at least on the intelligentsia level — is the fact that in the pre-Gorbachev period the Soviet media portrayed the Arab-Israeli conflict in terms of good and evil, with Israel as the evil party. Under Gorbachev, a much more

balanced portrayal of Israel is being depicted, with top Israeli politicians now being regularly interviewed, along with a more negative view of some of Moscow's Arab allies, like Syria. It is too early to determine whether Soviet public opinion will become a significant element in Soviet foreign policy, but its potential significance should not be overlooked, particularly with the victory of a large number of progressives in the recent Soviet local elections, and, for the moment at least, it appears to be shifting towards a pro-Israeli position. In sum, while Moscow continues to refrain from re-establishing full diplomatic relations with Israel — and will probably continue to do so until Israel agrees to an international conference on the Middle East — still a relatively remote prospect — in all other spheres the relationship between the two countries has become quite close. Indeed, Israel now has closer relations overall with the USSR than it has with Egypt, with which it has diplomatic relations. Nonetheless, problems still remain, primarily in differences over the Middle East peace process and Soviet military aid to Israel's enemies. Should Israel move ahead expeditiously in the peace process and show a willingness to grant a role in it to Moscow, Soviet-Israeli relations can be expected to improve further.

Dr. Freedman is professor of political science at Baltimore Hebrew University. He is author of *Soviet Policy toward the Middle East since 1970*. The article is reprinted from the London-based *Middle East International*.

EC blessing gives Kohl broad support for German unity

By Tom Heneghan
Reuter

DUBLIN — Decided daily weeks ago as a reckless nationalist, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has succeeded in winning almost unanimous foreign approval for rapid German unification.

The European Community warmly welcomed German unity on Saturday, joining a growing line of world leaders hailing Kohl's plan for one of the biggest upheavals post-war Europe has seen.

The United States and the Soviet Union, the two superpowers who built up their post-war military machines on the premise of a divided Germany, had already given the green light.

Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, who in their collective Communist pasts regularly denounced German nationalism, have also greeted unity as a natural and healthy development.

Bonn has worked long and hard to convince its neighbours — all faced with a "German Question" at the beginning, middle and now the end of this century — that the new state will be a reliable friend rather than a fourth Reich.

At the same time, it has steered clear of acrimonious debates by stressing its commitment to Europe, so much so that West Germany and its EC ally France deftly turned what was supposed to have been a special summit on unification into one on European political union.

"I believe the (EC) partners have recognised that German unification will not create problems but will heal a deep wound, namely the division of Europe," West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Sunday.

"For someone who is usually portrayed as a bull in a China shop, Kohl has handled unification very well," one European diplomat commented. "He has made sure that everyone is on his side so he has a free hand to proceed."

However, some are less enthusiastic than others.

The Kremlin, set to lose some influence abroad and prestige at home when the division it imposed after the Second World War is reversed, accepts unity but wants Germany outside of NATO.

Warsaw is still nervous about its Western border, drawn after the war to include German territory. Several groups, ranging from internationalists to many Jews and others who suffered under the Nazis, remain firmly opposed to unity.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Although EC leaders have expressed confidence unification would not upset their economies, they have yet to convince all the sceptics that they can escape the need for higher interest rates to contain the inflationary impact of monetary union between East and West Germany as the target date of July 2 approaches.

At their Strasbourg summit last December, EC leaders hedged their support for unification with strict conditions that betrayed a deep mistrust of what the Germans might be up to.

They included blunt reminders — embarrassing for West Germans who have spent the past 40 years in Western political, economic and defence alliances — that the unification process must be democratic and peaceful.

Other countries, especially France, were quick to criticise Kohl in March when his legalistic refusal to recognise Poland's western border made it look as if he would not stand up to a right-wing minority seeking to reclaim German lands beyond it.

But once Kohl supported a plan to guarantee the borders, the issue — the most controversial so far in the Germans' rush to unity — retreated into the background.

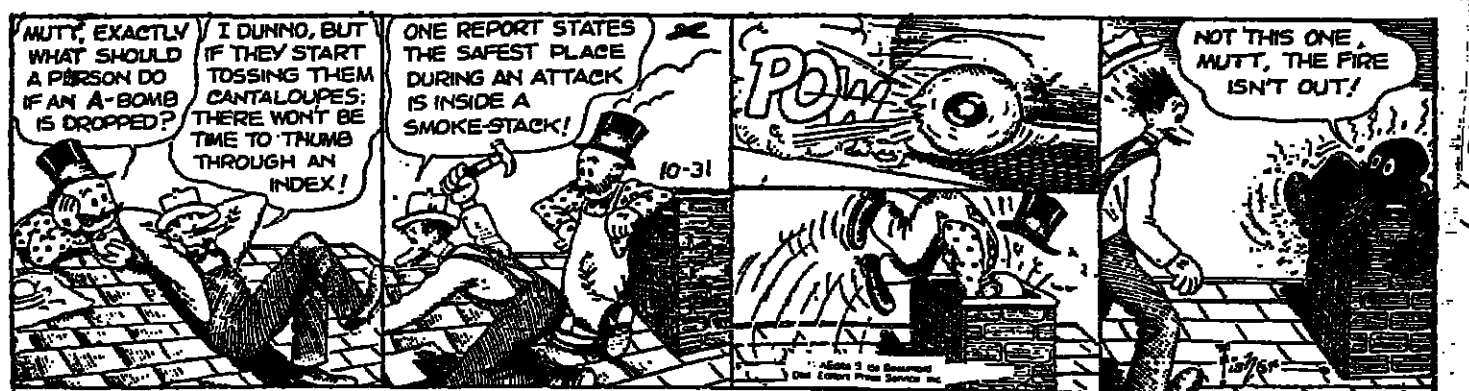
Mindful of how sensitive the unity question is, Bonn will have to keep up its diplomatic efforts for many months to come.

Its next test comes on Saturday, when the two German foreign ministers and their colleagues from the four World War Two victors — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — meet in Bonn to start mapping out future security arrangements for a United Germany.

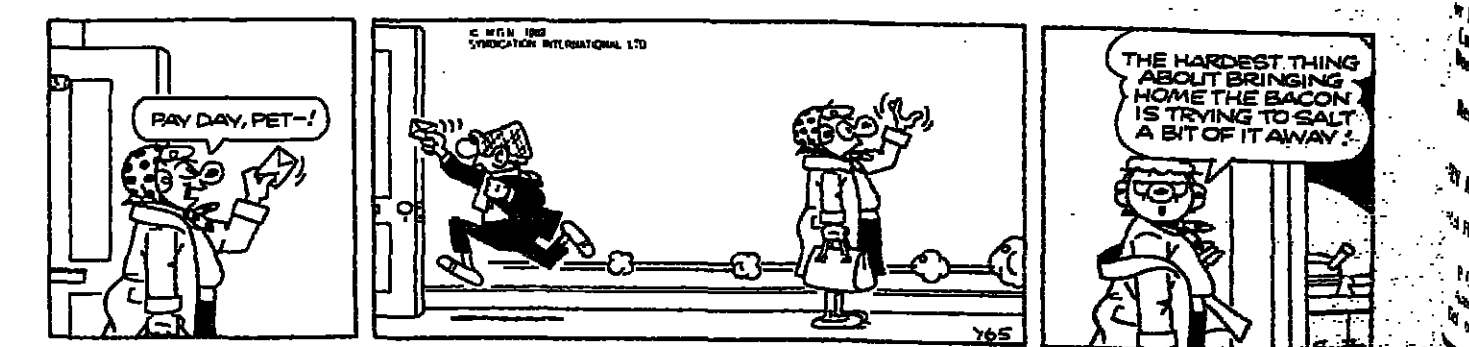
These "two-plus-four" talks aim to find a compromise acceptable to all sides by late this year, when it will be presented to the 35-nation conference on security and cooperation in Europe.



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Peanuts



الصحف الجordanية المستقلة المنشورة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

UNRWA — an anniversary that is no cause for joy

ON MAY 1 1990, it is 40 years since the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) started assisting Palestinian refugees in the Near East.

UNRWA was created as a "temporary" agency to look after three-quarters of a million needy people, who had just been uprooted from their homes and property. These refugees and their descendants still live in an uneasy exile, awaiting a final resolution of the Palestine question.

Therefore, this 40th anniversary of UNRWA is no cause for celebration — despite the many successes and accomplishments.

UNRWA is seizing this occasion, however, to salute its dedicated staff members for their hard work over these 40 years.

As UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said last December, on the 40th anniversary of UNRWA's creation by the General Assembly, "UNRWA staff members as a group have suffered more arrests, detentions, injuries and even loss of life than the staff of any other United Nations organisation."

On the same occasion, UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli expressed deep appreciation to current and former staff for their "exemplary dedication and devotion" to the Agency, to their work and to the refugees.

On the 40th anniversary of UNRWA operations this May, particular tribute is being paid to 78 currently serving staff members, in the five fields of operations and at Headquarters, who joined UNRWA on its first day of operations, May 1, 1950. These are receiving certificates and specially struck medals in recognition of their service to the international community and to the Palestine refugees.

What is UNRWA?

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was created by Resolution 302 (IV) of the U.N. General Assembly on Dec. 8, 1949 and began operations on May 1, 1950.

Its assignment was to provide relief and works assistance in association with host governments to some three quarters of a million people, mostly Palestinian Arabs, who had lost their homes and livelihood as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.

UNRWA replaced an earlier ad-hoc agency, United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees (UNRPR), which had been set up in November 1948 to coordinate humanitarian and emergency aid provided by voluntary agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the American Friends Service Committee.

At the outset, it was believed that UNRWA's mission would be brief — that some of the refugees would be allowed to return to their original homes, while others would be absorbed in the surrounding Arab countries. However, this did not happen and the prob-

lem remains unresolved. Therefore, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's three-year mandate, most recently through June 30, 1993.

When UNRWA began operations, a large number of refugees were living in tents in about 60 camps located in Lebanon, Syria, on the East and West Banks of Jordan and in the Gaza Strip. Today, less than one-third of the 2.3 million registered refugees live in the 61 refugee camps served by UNRWA. These camps, no longer of tents and makeshift huts but now crisscrossed with breezeblock or mud-brick houses, resemble towns and villages or poor city neighbourhoods, and are under the jurisdiction of the local government authorities.

It has always been UNRWA's policy to offer services to registered refugees whether they live in camps or not. Originally those services centred on relief to the needy and homeless, but to accommodate the refugees' wishes and desire for self-sufficiency, the emphasis was shifted in the early 1950s from emergency relief to education and training.

Biggest programme

At its inception, UNRWA had allocated just over \$300,000 to education, with the remainder of its initial \$35.8 million budget going to relief work. Today, education accounts for just over half of UNRWA's total expenditures, which are budgeted at \$230 million in 1990.

During the Agency's first year, UNRWA's work was carried out by some 6,000 employees — 133 international staff and 5,840 local staff, most of the latter being Palestinian refugees themselves. UNRWA now has a staff of just over 18,000 which makes it the largest agency within the U.N. system and one of the largest employers in the Middle East. As in its first year, the vast majority of these staff members — currently more than 99 per cent — are Palestinians. The greatest number of employees — approximately 12,000 — are involved in the Agency's education programme. UNRWA operates 633 elementary and preparatory (junior secondary) schools with a capacity centres which have 4,950 places available. UNRWA's educational programme receives assistance from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). This includes supervisory staff (international and Palestinian) on secondment from UNESCO.

Health care

UNRWA's health service, under the technical supervision of the World Health Organisation (WHO), operates 104 health units providing primary care and handling more than 5 million patient visits a year. Routine mass immunisation has resulted in the prevention of major epidemics.

The programme is concerned chiefly with the early years of life, operating 97

maternal and child health care clinics. The close monitoring of the health of refugee women and babies has helped to reduce significantly the infant mortality rate among the refugees.

UNRWA's health service also subsidises hospital care for refugees, runs nutrition, family-planning, dental and diabetes clinics, conducts health-education programmes in schools and looks after sanitary and environmental health conditions in camps. It has also traditionally embodied a "supplementary feeding" programme, providing midday meals to the youngest children in the refugee community. This programme is being redirected to reach all refugees with inadequate nutritional levels.

Social services

The agency's relief programme has also changed over the years — from concentrating on the general distribution of humanitarian aid to a more focused approach aimed at assisting the neediest refugees and helping others to become self-sufficient.

Some 141,000 refugees — the aged chronically sick, widows and orphans, the disabled and others with no access to regular family income — receive assistance from UNRWA, including food rations, as "special hardship cases."

The relief programme also helps refugees to improve their housing and finances self-support projects (primarily through small grants to help individual refugees earn livelihoods as shopkeepers or craftsmen). Social services — education, skills-training and recreational activities for disabled refugees, women and youth as well as community development and self-help projects — are an increasingly important component of UNRWA's relief work.

Emergencies intervene

At times, UNRWA has operated all its programmes — education, health and relief — in the midst of emergencies. Only six years after its establishment, the agency experienced the first such emergency following the 1956 invasion of the Gaza Strip by Israeli forces. Refugee housing and agency property were destroyed or damaged and many refugees were displaced. An even greater challenge, however, came with the June 1967 war between Israel and its Arab neighbours, during which more than 300,000 Arabs from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Sinai peninsula and Golan Heights fled from their homes. These included some 200,000 refugees from 1948 and their families who were now displaced for a second time.

After the fighting was over, UNRWA was able immediately to resume its assistance — feeding the displaced, giving vaccinations against disease and distributing food rations, tents, clothing and blankets. Shelters, health centres and schools were quickly repaired so regular operations could be resumed.



Families cross the Jordan River to the East Bank fleeing the fighting in the 1967 war (UNRWA photo)

Subsequent upheavals in the Middle East have forced UNRWA to undertake similar emergency operations as in 1967: the serious fighting in Jordan in 1970, another Arab-Israeli war in 1973, the ongoing Lebanese civil conflict starting in 1975, Israeli invasions of Lebanon in 1978 and 1982 and the "camps" war in Lebanon from 1986-88.

In each case, food supplies were ensured for thousands of displaced refugees. The wounded were treated and the homeless rehoused where possible. Emergency medical supplies, water and sanitation facilities were provided. Repair and replacement of camp housing and UNRWA facilities

were begun at the earliest practicable time. Schools and clinics were kept operating — often amidst the rubble of nearly destroyed camps.

For the past two years, UNRWA has expanded its health and relief services in the Gaza Strip and West Bank to meet the emergency demands created by the Palestinian uprising, the intifada, which erupted in December 1987. UNRWA has responded to this latest emergency with special programmes designed to alleviate some of the suffering endured by the refugees as a result of the intifada and the harsh measures employed by the Israeli authorities against uprising.

UNRWA's regular operations — as well as its emergency programmes — are financed by voluntary contributions from the international community as part of its responsibility for Palestine refugees. Some 70 governments, the European Community and various inter-governmental, non-governmental and voluntary organisations contribute regularly to UNRWA. In addition, the Arab host countries and Israel provide services directly to the refugees. Throughout UNRWA's existence, however, contributions to the agency have not risen in proportion with the needs of the refugees — UNRWA press release.



Israelis have increased their military presence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in the wake of the uprising which broke out in December 1987 (UNRWA photo)

When the mountain blew on May 18, 1980, the eruption shot a black plume almost two and a half kilometres high. It levelled timber for miles to the north, triggered a huge mudslide that swamped Spirit Lake and devastated the nearby Toutle River valley.

Volcanology benefitted from St. Helens eruption

By Jim Klahn
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Almost 10 years ago, Mount St. Helens exploded with the force of a nuclear bombardment. In an instant, 396 metres of the peak disappeared, its top fifth simply blown away. The eruption killed 57 people and sent ash around the world. The smoking, raw-edged crater left behind by the eruption on May 18, 1980, stunned residents of Washington and Oregon used to gazing at a symmetrical, snow-capped peak once 2,950 metres above sea level.

"It woke people up to the fact that having a volcano in your backyard can be dangerous," said Dwight Crandell, retired from the U.S. Geological Survey. In 1978, Crandell helped write a report that predicted an eruption at Mount St. Helens.

The blast was also a wake-up call for volcanologists around the world. In the 1970s, only two countries with volcanic mountains were examining the dangers to nearby human settlements. Today 16 countries have active studies under way, Crandell said.

"It's clear that the 1980 eruption was a sensation for the science of volcanology," said Geologist Steve Brantley, stationed at the USGS Cascade volcano observatory in Vancouver, Washington, about 45 miles (72 kilometres) southwest of Mount St. Helens. About 80 scientists work at the observatory, built after the eruption.

Crandell said he was gratified that many countries with volcanoes have since made use of their work in hazard assessment, including New Zealand, Japan, Italy, Mexico, Ecuador and Colombia.

The eruption of Colombia's Nevado del Ruiz in November 1985 provides an example of how

"Earthquakes at the volcano are not unheard of," Malone said. "They generate a bit of interest but not immediate alarm."

But quakes kept coming, increasing in number and strength. Three days after the initial quake, university seismologists warned about a "potentially serious situation."

"This was when we first suspected we might be on to something other than just a small earthquake swarm," Malone said.

Teams of geologists arrived to set up equipment to monitor ground movement and the gases emitted each time the volcano burped. Seismologists stayed close to their machines. The forest service warning people to stay clear of the mountain because of avalanches.

Meantime, the ground was moving at postcard-perfect Spirit Lake, at the mountain's foot. Chuck Tonn, who ran The forest service desk at the lake, hung a pencil from a string to show the faint shaking. The lake was evacuated on March 25.

"I was glad to leave that morning," Tonn said. "That last night, I don't think any of us slept... it seemed like there was always some movement going on."

Not everyone left. Harry Truman, the 83-year-old owner and keeper of rustic Spirit Lake Lodge, dug in his heels. Truman vowed to stay on the mountain that had been his home for 50 years, the mountain that eight weeks later would kill him.

By mid-April, the stark gray and brown hollow of a crater had replaced the mountain's snowy point. Ashfalls in the region were commonplace, with fickle winds determining who got dusted next.

When the mountain blew on May 18, 1980, the eruption shot a black plume almost two and half

Mount St. Helens prompted gains in both volcanology and seismology. Since 1980, scientists have learned to better predict volcanic eruptions by studying earthquake activity, including the "harmonic tremors" that indicate movement of molten earth.

hazard assessment could have helped, Crandell said.

An assessment had been completed, and hazard zones had been laid out, including likely flood and mudflow zones at the town of Armero. But word never reached local officials. There were no evacuations and 25,000 people perished.

Mount St. Helens prompted gains in both volcanology and seismology. Since 1980, scientists have learned to better predict volcanic eruptions by studying earthquake activity, including the "harmonic tremors" that indicate movement of molten earth.

Other volcanic mysteries are also better understood, Crandell said. These include the devastating sideways force of the May 1980 eruption, the fast-moving and deadly mixtures of matter and gas known as pyroclastic flows and surges, and the mudflows that let loose within minutes after vibrations turned snowfields into walls of water.

The lethal eruption came after a two-month series of earthquakes and small-scale eruptions.

On the afternoon of March 20, 1980, an earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale knocked snow off the north face of Mount St. Helens but went virtually unnoticed in the surrounding area. It was the first recorded sign that Mount St. Helens' volcanic fuse was lit.

One week later, on March 27, the volcano belched steam and ash in its first eruption in 123 years. The accompanying 4.7-magnitude quake sent seismic needles skittering.

University of Washington seismologist Steve Malone said the March 20 earthquake did not immediately make scientists suspicious that molten rock was

kilometres high. It levelled timber for miles to the north, triggered a huge mudslide that swamped Spirit Lake and devastated the nearby Toutle River valley.

The 57 victims included campers, loggers and residents caught in the blast, mudslides and accompanying floods.

For those who experienced the volcano, Mount St. Helens has left its mark as clearly as the eruption scarred the landscape.

"I feel fortunate to have been at Mount St. Helens from the beginning all these 10 years," said Tonn, who now manages the forest service's visitors' centre west of the 44,550-hectare national volcanic monument.

"(The eruption) kind of puts me in my place. It puts me in awe of what can happen."

For Crandell and fellow USGS geologist Donal Mullineaux, the eruption was right on time. After studying dormant Cascade range volcanoes in the 1960s and 1970s, they predicted in 1978 that Mount St. Helens would likely erupt relatively soon.

"Everything we found indicated it was a very young volcano, and a very explosive volcano, and a frequently active volcano," which last erupted in 1857, Crandell said. "We felt almost sure the volcano would erupt, and sooner rather than later. That is what the history told us."

While some public officials greeted their hazard report seriously, there were also snickers, the two scientists said. "A lot of people made fun of it, of course," Mullineaux said.

Mullineaux and Crandell retired in the mid-1980s, but both remain active in research on Mount St. Helens.

"I can't leave it alone," Cran-

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India on U.S. trade hit list for second straight year **India refuses to negotiate trade pacts under threat**

follow the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in forging closer economic ties in trade and finance.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar.

Big GCC oil producers no longer have the wealth that they had in the 1970s, when they funded poorer Arab governments.

Economists have therefore begun to emphasise self-reliance and education.

"The non-GCC countries have more diversified economies and their populations constitute an economic wealth and a very valuable asset if put to efficient use," said Faquih.

The AMF has capital of around \$2 billion.

Saudi Arabia is the biggest contributor with about 12 per cent of the voting rights, with Algeria, Iraq, Egypt, and Kuwait being the other significant contributors.

exceed \$350.

India, which has promised to slash the red tape that frustrates foreign investors, peeved Washington in March by refusing to allow the Coca Cola company to set up a plant that would mostly export soft drinks.

Washington is also irritated that India has been outspoken in opposing moves to include protection of intellectual property in the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Delhi-based diplomats said.

Taipei made concessions on intellectual property rights to avoid Washington's hit list. Taiwan's Vice-Economic Minister Chang Ping-Kun said.

"We're not surprised with the result because we've made last-ditch concessions," he said.

Taiwan agreed to provide copyright protection for U.S. las-

W. German union holds warning strikes

It said lower-technology consumer manufacturing, such as footwear, plastic products and toys, as well as some basic consumer electronic products, were among industries relocated to Southeast Asia from Japan and the Asian tigers.


These were, in turn, exported back to Japan and the tigers, strengthening regional trade links.

The 49-member bank, which has loaned \$29 billion to develop the economies of Asia since 1966, said previously Japan and the four Asian tigers had built the growth on exports and investment directed at Europe and the

week and a nine per cent pay rise during negotiations, they would decide next week whether to hold

CHANGE RATES		
Feb 28, 1990 official rates		
French franc	118.7	119.4
Japanese yen (for 100)	420.2	422.7
Dutch guilder	354.2	356.3
Swedish crown	109.7	110.4
Italian lira (for 100)	54.4	54.7
Belgian franc (for 10)	193.1	194.3

by Marie Arnold and Bob Lee



IF YOU WATCH
TOO MUCH FOOTBALL,
YOU MIGHT WEAR
OUT THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to
make the surprise answer, as sug-
gested by the above cartoon.

79

○ ○ ○ ○

(Answers tomorrow)

STONE PILFER DEPICT

Stone Age people became when
a prehistoric monster suddenly appeared
here—"PETRIFIED"

the day off ahead of Tuesday's May Day holiday.

MARK MARKETS

Market plunged in afternoon trading as leading industrial stocks down as leading index fell 21.9 to 1434.5. Closed for a holiday.

ended lower on a lack of buying the sidelines as overseas markets ended 36.24 down at 2,950.09.

ended at the day's lows in lethargic afternoon brought stocks down as Times Industrials fell 12.04 to

continuously in volatile trading after selective selling by mutual funds. rose 1.55 to 795.13.

finished lower after very quiet workers' wildcats strikes putting t. The Dax index shed 12.27 to

lower in a quiet market, with the fine spring weather ahead. The CAC-index closed 19.81

power across the board. Dealers' SPI Index closed eight points

and most of the day's losses in late Wall Street and a good first quarter. The FTSE index was off 2.4 at

with blue chips slipping ahead as federal reserve rate increases was down 10 at 2635.

Yesterdays Puzzle Solved:

APPLE	STAFF	BAZA
ORIO	LOTER	AWOL
ROVE	LETRA	RAIL
AVERAGE	UNKIND	
DOOR	WORST	OTIO
RESIST	PAINT	EAR
STICK	SCALES	ONE
STICK	DEFECTIVE	
RAM	ALLIES	HAIR
NAME	YOUN	ARM
LEASE	SWAIN	ARM
INTERED	WISERLY	
EDIT	AVIANT	MALE
VENT	AVIANT	IDEA
ERGO	GENES	TEAR

5 Cyclist
 6 Farm machine
 7 Pioneer
 8 E., TX
 9 Pan
 10 Snap or pot
 11 end
 12 Certain

51 Seed
 52 Cap covering
 53 Bog fuel
 54 Weight
 55 Shooter
 56 marble

Basketball tournament opens Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the Royal patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, the Arab Basketball Federation and the Jordanian Basketball Federation will hold the Arab championship games opening on May 2 at the Orthodox Club of Amman.

Thirteen men's teams and seven women's teams will compete in the championship's games. This is the fifth championship for men and the first for women in the Arab World.

Approximately 300 players from Algeria, Morocco, Tunis, Egypt, Somalia, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Jordan will participate in the games.

Over 250 volunteers from the Orthodox Club have worked on a variety of committees to make these games possible. Visitors have been received at the airport and borders and transported to local hotels. Practice sessions have taken place at the University of Jordan and at the Sports City.

The newly renovated Orthodox Club and the newly completed gymnasium, are being specially prepared for the opening ceremonies on May 2. His Majesty King Hussein will preside at the opening ceremonies of the Arab Basketball Tournament and the opening of the club. Opening ceremonies are by invitation only.

The general public is welcomed to attend the tournament from May 3-10. Tickets are available at the Orthodox Club. Morning games are JD 1 per game and afternoon games are JD 2 per game. An eight-day ticket will cost JD 20.

On April 21 the tournament events started with an evening programme consisting of the drawing of lots and a cultural evening. By the draw, the following groupings were established:

MEN'S TEAMS:

Group 1: Algeria (Unkon), Yemen, Syria, Egypt.
Group 2: Iraq, Palestine, Morocco, Jordan (Orthodox).
Group 3: Algeria (Electricity), Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tunis.

WOMEN'S GROUPS:

Syria, Algeria, Tunis, Iraq, Jordan (Abli and Orthodox).

Following the draw, the Royal Jordanian Orchestra, singers and dancers entertained the audience with a series of songs and dances.

The opening games on May 2 will be the Orthodox Club vs. Morocco for men, and the Orthodox Club vs. Iraq for women.

In preparation for this very special event the Orthodox Club men's team spent seven days in Athens at a basketball training camp. The Orthodox Club women's basketball team spent 5 days in Syria participating in a training programme. An exciting tournament is expected.

NBA playoff games

Suns 105, Jazz 87

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (AP) — Kevin Johnson shook off the flu to score 22 points and the Phoenix reserves ignited a third-quarter surge that sealed a 105-87 victory over the Utah Jazz Sunday to even their playoff series at 1-1.

Utah's loss was the first for a home team in the National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs.

The Suns' victory sent the best-of-5 matchup to Phoenix for games Wednesday and Friday. A fifth game, if necessary, would be played at Salt Lake City on Sunday.

76ers 107, Cavaliers 101

PHILADELPHIA — The impressive Charles Barkley towed the floor, led the offense and scored 32 points as he led the Philadelphia 76ers to a 107-101 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Sunday night.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HANSON
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BREAK A RULE TWICE

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 2
♥ A K J
♦ 8 3
♣ K J 10 9 4 3
EAST
♠ 10 9 6 4
♥ Q 5 3
♦ A J 10 9 6
♣ K Q 5 2
SOUTH
♠ A K J 3
♥ Q 10 4 2
♦ 7 4
♣ Q 8 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠
3 ♠ 3 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠
If we have learned one thing over the years, it is never to use "never" or "always" when teaching or writing about bridge. On this hand from the Fall North American Championships, East-West twice indulged in a defensive play that is considered taboo, and earned themselves an extra trick for their endeavors.
We doubt we would bid once with the East hand, let alone twice! But

tournament players these days are a law unto themselves. South's double was "negative" — a takeout for the other two suits.

With clubs divided 2-2 and the defenders thus unable to obtain a ruff, it would seem declarer need not lose more than two diamonds and a club. Indeed, that was often the case in the Blue Ribbon Pairs Championship. But watch what happened at the table where Mexico's George Rosenkranz was the declarer at three hearts, with Canadians Haig Tchaimitch and John Gowdy sitting East-West.

The defenders started with the ace and king of diamonds, then broke a cardinal rule by playing another diamond, yielding a ruff-suff. However, declarer was not overjoyed by this development. After ruffing in dummy, South led a club to the queen and West's ace. Now another diamond, giving a second ruff-suff, set up a trump trick for the defenders.

Declarer did as well as possible by ruffing in dummy, cashing the ace, then coming to hand with the ace of spades to draw trumps. But East had a trump winner and declarer was held to nine tricks.

WORLD CUP

5 teams are top favourites

By Piero Valsecchi
The Associated Press

MILAN, Italy — Five powerful teams — two from Latin America and three from Europe — fit the profile of the 1990 World Cup champion.

Cup defender Argentina and European champion the Netherlands top the list of favourites, along with host Italy, Brazil and West Germany.

Belgium, Yugoslavia, Spain and England also have to be reckoned among the potential winners of the World Cup.

In a tournament where close marking should keep scores low, superstar forwards like Diego Maradona of Argentina or Marco van Basten of the Netherlands may prove to be the deciding factors.

"Maradona and van Basten are almost unstoppable players and can make the difference between their teams and the others," Italian manager Azeelio Vicini said.

Vicini believes that Brazil and West Germany, combining excellent teamwork with individual talent, could join Argentina and the Netherlands in the semifinals.

"It's up to others to predict Italy among the final four," said Vicini, who hopes to lead Italy to an unprecedented fourth World Cup.

The first of 52 matches in 12 Italian cities pits Argentina against Cameroon on June 8 in Milan. The final is July 8 in Rome.

Argentina, often without Maradona and other stars performing in the European leagues, has not been impressive in World Cup warmups.

Its forwards were shut out by rival defenses in nine consecutive games going back to July 1989. In April Argentina managed only one goal against the Scottish club Linfield.

"Exhibition matches are arranged just to test new tactics and players and improve teamwork," said Argentina manager Bilardo. "You will see the real strength and the determination of the best teams when World Cup action begins."

Maradona, who plays for Italy's Napoli, is 29 and has been troubled by back injuries. However doctors say he should be in top form to help defend the cup won by Argentina in 1986 in Mexico.

Other favourites have had mixed performances in warmup matches, too. Italy scored only two goals in six games, including a 1-0 loss to Brazil. The Netherlands was held to a scoreless draw by Italy and lost 2-1 to the Soviet Union and 1-0 to Brazil in three recent games.

West Germany was upset by France, a team which failed to qualify for the World Cup, in February. Last Wednesday, West Germany drew 3-3 with Uruguay, another World Cup finalist.

Brazil registered narrow victories over the Italians and Dutch earlier this year, then was beaten 1-0 by England.

Brazilian manager Sebastiao Lazaroni said he isn't worried. Lazaroni, the first Brazilian manager to use a sweeper to tighten up the defence, noted that his team allowed only three goals in 15 matches.

"Few goals will be scored in the next world competition, so you need a good defence to protect narrow leads," Lazaroni said.

By adopting a European-style defence with Mauro Galvao as a sweeper, Brazil should be more balanced.

But it still has dazzling forwards such as Valdo, Careca and Bebeto to provide offensive punch, and Romario should boost the attack if he recovers from a broken leg.

Brazil is the only country besides Italy to have won three World Cup tournaments, but its last triumph was in 1970 in Mexico when Pele was still playing.

Dutch prospects have soared since Roud Gullit returned to limited action for AC Milan after a knee injury. But even if Gullit isn't fully recovered, van Basten's offensive inventions and a strong midfield should keep Holland in the thick of competition.

West Germany, which has reached the World Cup finals five times and won two titles, fields matchwinners such as Lothar Matthaus, Jurgen Klinsmann and Andy Moeller. Matthaus and Klinsmann scored goals in the 3-3 draw with Uruguay.

Italy, the bookmakers' favourite, should benefit from the support of home crowds.

The team is strong at midfield and defence, but must improve at the front line to repeat the triumph of 1982 and avoid the flop of 1986 in Mexico.

Striker Gianluca Vialli, troubled by a foot injury, did not score a single goal in five warmups, sharply reducing the offensive efficiency of the Italian team.

Young striker Salvatore Schillaci could boost the attack. Barely behind in talent are four other European sides.

Belgium fields one of the world's best goalies, Michel Preud'homme, and the leading scorer of World Cup qualifying rounds, 24-year-old forward Marc Degryse.

England upset powerful Brazil in Wembley in March. It boasts an exceptional goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, and fine wingers John Barnes and Chris Waddle.

Yugoslavia relies on talented midfielder Dragan Stojkovic, and Spain hopes that brilliant striker Emilio Butragueno will take it to the top.

Maradona sets Argentine coach dreaming of World Cup repeat

Reuters

DIEGO Maradona's performance in leading Napoli to their second Italian League title in four years set Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo enthusing about his side's chances of retaining the World Cup.

"With him in this form we can win the World Cup again. He's the key player in the Argentine squad... It's hard to say whether Diego is in better form now than when we won the cup in Mexico but I'm sure that he's at least at the same level," Bilardo said.

His optimism rose after watching a considerably slimmer Maradona turn in a sparkling display as Napoli beat Lazio 1-0 on Sunday.

But Bilardo's reaction was almost muted by comparison with that of thousands of fans who took to the streets for an all-night party to celebrate the victory and toast the sometimes petulant but wildly adored Argentine and Napoli captain.

Maradona, putting aside the fact he spent much of the early part of the season in heated rows with the club, returned the compliment by saying he now considered Naples his home.

"It's not easy to win the championship in Naples. It's not easy to work here. But I feel this is now my city and I'm happy here," he said.

Maradona was not the only star to raise hopes ahead of the World Cup by his performance in the Italian League.

Milan's Dutch international Roud Gullit, who is returning to form just in time for the World Cup after 11 months out with a knee injury, played 65 minutes of AC Milan's 4-0 win against Bari.

"The first half was great but in the second I didn't have much energy left. I'm not at my best yet. I've got a lot of work to do in

the next month and I'll also be having another check-up on my knee," Gullit said.

Milan, who lost in the final of the Italy Cup last week and had to be content with second place in the league behind Napoli, still have the chance of one trophy when they defend their European Cup crown against Benfica on May 23.

Real Madrid, with the league title already assured, broke another soccer record at the weekend by becoming the first Spanish team to notch up more than 100 goals in a season.

Fernando Hierro had the honour of putting in the 100th goal, and followed that with another which gave Real a 3-3 draw against local rivals Atletico Madrid.

"I know that the first goal will go down in history, but I prefer the third one which gave us a draw," said the Real defender, who was in no doubt about his team's superiority despite their uneven performance in a game marked by frayed tempers.

"It showed on Saturday that we are superior — look at our five consecutive league titles," he said.

Meanwhile Sevilla's Austrian striker Anton Polster handed Real's Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez another record.

Polster had been chasing Sanchez all season for the title of "Pichichi" — given to the league's top marksman — and closed the gap to two with Sevilla's only goal as they went down 2-1 to Rayo Vallecano.

But Polster also earned himself a yellow card that puts him out of the season's last game and thus makes Sanchez, who has scored

35 goals, official "Pichichi" for the fifth time.

Bordeaux's 2-1 defeat of Nantes, who scored twice in the last eight minutes, allowed defending champions Marseille to move two points clear in the French league with three games to go and prompted Bordeaux, Belgian trainer Raymond Goetsals to concede the title.

"This time, it's finished," he said. "I always said we did not have the same strength on substitutes' bench as Marseille and finally this is what has come."

Marseille have such a superior goal difference they can afford to lose next week's tough match at Auxerre and still win the title with victories in their last two games, both at home.

Ajax Amsterdam seem set to take over the Dutch championship from PSV Eindhoven despite a blundering 2-2 draw against Roda JC on Sunday.

With one match remaining, Ajax have 48 points, two ahead of PSV who managed only a 1-1 draw at home against Feyenoord. A draw in their final match will be enough to ensure the title for Ajax.

In West Germany, Bayer Munich also had to delay their celebrations for a fifth league title in six years after being held to goalless draw by nearest rival Bayer Leverkusen.

However Bayern still have three matches in which to get the one point needed.

"Never mind, we'll win at home in midweek against Stuttgart. Victory will be all the sweeter there," Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes said.

England pins hopes on Barnes, Waddle

LONDON (AP) — If any country can win soccer's World Cup based on tactics taken from the history books, it is England.

While other nations have gained success by developing and adapting their soccer systems over the years, England relies on that same old hurried, predictable and unimaginative approach that has let it down time after time.

With an exceptional goalkeeper and a rock-solid defense, England will prove difficult to beat. Its unbeaten record in its last 15 games, including a fortuitous 1-0 victory over Brazil and a goalless tie with Italy, proves that.

But any country that faces England in Italy will know exactly what to expect — solid tackling, honest, reliable defending and little else.

The fair factor is very limited. The world's leading teams are wise to the fact that if they stop wingers John Barnes and Chris Waddle, they have stopped England.

Bryan Robson, England's inspirational captain, has just returned to action after a three-month injury layoff and his fitness, at age 33, is suspect.

And the strike duo of Peter Beardsley and Gary Lineker, thrown together during the last World Cup, is still there, plodding along without producing the goals. During that unbeaten stretch, Beardsley has scored twice and Lineker three times.

The country that prides itself on being the birthplace of the world's most popular sport has been overtaken by so many teams

it is no longer mentioned in the list of leading World Cup contenders.

Crowd violence that has sentenced England's clubs to an exile from European competition for five years has set the national team back a decade in terms of development.

Devoid of trans-European competition, many English clubs have become totally isolated from the modern game.

They have reverted to the sort of hit-and-hope tactics that were embarrassingly exposed by quality European teams such as Real Madrid and Barcelona in the late 1950s and early '60s.

So England manager Bobby Robson not only has to assemble a team capable of winning the World Cup. He also has to teach them how to play soccer again.

On the positive side is the steady and often brilliant form of the seemingly ageless goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, behind two impressive central defenders.

Now 40, Shilton has been playing division 1 soccer since he was 16, collecting an English record 114 international appearances going into the April 25 exhibition

game against Czechoslovakia.

Terry Butcher, the tall, powerful central defender who plays for Scottish champion Glasgow Rangers, is the cornerstone of the defence and is dangerous in the air when England wins corners or free kicks close to its opponent's goal.

And his regular partner, Nottingham Forest's Des Walker, who impresses with his speed and quick thinking, could prove one of the top defenders in the tournament.

If Bryan Robson returns to full strength in time, having shrugged off a series of shoulder and ankle injuries and even a hernia operation, he will be a formidable force in midfield.

But England pins its hopes on the Barnes-Waddle tandem, described by manager Robson as the best wing pair in the world although they play their club soccer in two different countries.

Both are famed for their swerving runs, sparkling footwork and explosive left-foot shots.

If opponents are foolish enough to concede free kicks on the edge of their own penalty area, Barnes, who plays for

Liverpool, and Waddle, who lines up for Olympique Marseilles in France, both are capable of lashing them home.

Lineker, returning to English soccer after a spell with Spain's Barcelona, has been scoring regularly for Tottenham Hotspur after a sluggish start to the season.

But the form of Liverpool's Beardsley has nosedived at both club and international levels. There have been frequent calls for manager Robson to replace him with such players as Arsenal's Alan Smith or even Steve Bull, who plays for second-division Wolverhampton.

Robson who, like almost all English club managers, insists on fielding two fullbacks, has three other places to fill.

Dare he field the enterprising but sometimes wild-tackling left-back Stuart Pearce of Nottingham Forest? Is Arsenal's comparative newcomer Lee Dixon the best choice on the right side of defence?

Liverpool's tigerish tackler Steve McMahon is the favourite to slot into midfield alongside Robson.

Italian WC squad named

ROME (R) — Italian national coach Azeelio Vicini announced his 22-man squad for the World Cup Monday but said he was worried that more than half his players would be worn out by three European club finals next month.

"I believe the only problem will be getting back my players in good condition... above all let's hope they don't return injured," Vicini told journalists.

He said the 22 players would gather at the Italian training camp of Coverciano, south of Florence, on Sunday night. But the next day 12 of them will leave to rejoin their clubs for the European cup, UEFA Cup and Cup Winner's Cup finals.

Italy's success in Europe means Vicini will have less than three weeks to forge a coordinated team and that many of his players

will have practically no time to recover from a gruelling season.

Three AC Milan players, including lynchpin defender Franco Baresi, will be unable to join the squad until May 24, the day after the European Cup final against Portugal's Benfica. Midfielder Robert Donadoni, who is also in the squad, is disqualified for the match.

The full team will come together just over two weeks before Italy's first match, against Austria in Rome on June 9, which Vicini said would be the most important and dangerous of the host nation's first round games.

Vicini's side also has four players from European Cup Winner's Cup finalists Sampdoria, including striker Gianluca Vialli. Sampdoria face Belgium's Anderlecht on May 9.

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Nabila Obeld in
THE DANCER & THE POLITICIAN
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

SALVADOR

Performances: 6:00, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.

DISCO FEVER

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

Happy Eid Al Fitr
and **Mary Happy Returns**
Adel Imam... In
Hanafi the Great
(Hanafi Al Ubbahah)

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

1) PICASSO TRIGGER
2) LUCKY SEVEN

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Two killed in Nepal town as crowd attacks council buildings

KATHMANDU (R) — Two people were killed in the central Nepal town of Pokhara Monday when police fired on a crowd trying to attack a government building, witnesses said.

They said eight people were wounded when the crowd of several hundred tried to attack the building, the local centre of the now dismantled government system of partyless councils.

Police said the attack was beaten off but could not confirm the number of dead or wounded. They said they believed the attack was organised by extreme leftist groups that stayed out of a democracy reform movement of liberals and Communists that later formed an interim government.

Witnesses said troops helped put out the blaze at the building, which housed the district headquarters of the old Panchayat, or council system.

They said moderates helped calm down the crowd and tension was easing in Pokhara, a major tourist destination and administrative centre.

King Birendra agreed to scrap the Panchayat, which critics said encouraged corruption, after police shot dead dozens of demonstrators in an abortive crackdown on the reform movement.

The current constitution gives the king absolute powers.

Hardline Communists want to make Nepal a republic.

Seven more moderate Communist factions, which formed a United Left Front and made a pragmatic alliance with the liberal Nepali Congress Party, were prepared to compromise on a constitutional monarchy.

United Left leaders said they planned to use their first legal May Day rallies in 30 years to demonstrate their strength as part of the reformist coalition.

Nepali Congress Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai has declared May 1 as Labour Day

and a public holiday. Former governments banned the celebration of May Day, a traditional international labour holiday.

It is the first time the Communists have been in government, albeit as junior partners, in Nepal.

The United Left leaders, barred from overt political activity for decades, said they would make a commitment to maintain the coalition's unity, at least through elections expected within a year.

They have invited Nepali Congress leaders to join prominent Communists such as Man Mohan Adhikari in addressing rallies in the capital, Kathmandu, and four other towns.

So far, the unity between the centrists and leftists has held as Bhattarai's government gropes for control of Nepal's administrative machinery, aiming to overhaul the constitution and hold multi-party elections by next April.

The United Left leaders said the government also must begin to satisfy the aspirations of peasants and workers in Nepal, where average annual income per head is \$160.

"The government decision to declare May 1 as the Labour Day is a gesture of sympathy for the working class with whom we have to enter into realistic negotiations," said Nilambar Acharya, minister for labour and social welfare, alluding to scattered strikes against some Kathmandu-based industries.

Acharya, a member of the pro-Moscow Communist Party, is one of three United Left ministers in the interim government.

Meanwhile, in the remote villages of Nepal, the king is a god

and the Kathmandu politicians pushing for democracy mere shadows.

For the 22 families of Kamidando, huddled in the Himalayan foothills, caste and tradition come before political reform, and democracy means far less than the success of the season's corn harvest.

"It is a hard life, but that is our fate," said Bed Bahadur Tamang, a 39-year-old Kamidando peasant who shares his thatched-roof mud hut with his wife Thuli and three children, plus oxen and goats.

"Our king is rich and powerful," said Thuli. "We believe he is our god Vishnu."

"How can anyone force him to do anything," she asked as she prepared the corn paste that is the family staple for all but five festival days a year.

Thuli said she had heard bits of news about the protests in Kathmandu but, giggling, she dismissed them as mere rumour.

Sociologists said the views of Tamang and Thuli were typical of the overwhelmingly rural population of Nepal, one of the poorest countries in the world with a population of 18 million people.

Political observers say Nepal's rural majority, their attitudes shaped by caste and poverty, will play a crucial role in the struggle between pro-democracy reformers and monarchists in a general election due in one year's time.

The villagers mainly raise corn and supplement their meagre incomes with work in nearby shops or at a pottery kiln. Caste determines their place in the village. Tamang and Thuli belong to the Thakuriya or warrior caste, which fiercely supports King Birendra's Shah Dynasty that unified Nepal more than 200 years ago.

On those rare days they are treated to meat, it is delivered by members of the two low-caste families of the village.

"Otherwise, we do not allow them into our houses," Tamang said. "This is our tradition and our wives are very particular about it."

Nearby lives the village's Brahmin, or high caste, family in a larger and cleaner house, with livestock living apart from the people.

"The low castes are dirty," Bhagamati, the wife of the family, said. "That is why we don't allow them into our houses," she said, commenting on the attitudes of Tamang and Thuli.

"But then, neither do we mix with the Tamangs," she added. On the outskirts of Kamidando, one of the two low-caste families sat around a fire in the small hut they share with their hens and goats.

Channamati, a 60-year-old grandmother who heads the family, held her hands in reverent gesture and said any statement that King Birendra was being forced to shed power was sacrilegious.

"He is the god of our forefathers. We are the lowest of low. We live at their (upper castes') mercy. It is the tradition," she said, her face creasing in sorrow.

But her 35-year-old son, Krishna Bahadur, does not agree. "Communism is the answer to break this oppressive tradition," Bahadur said, adding that his wife ran off with another man because he could not earn a living.

"We are exploited in the name of tradition, right from the top," he said. "When the Panchayat system was there, officials used to come and demand money from us to register our land houses."

"We built this house and ploughed this land," he said. "But we have never had enough money to pay the bribes. After the Panchayat system, some other type of politicians will come and they too will demand money."

Confusion halts court martial of Manila coup plotters

MANILA (AP) — The first court martial of soldiers accused of trying to oust President Corason Aquino last December was postponed Monday because the room was too small and there was no electricity due to the country's power crisis.

Twenty-one officers, including two generals, were to have gone on trial Monday for their roles in the Dec. 1-9 failed coup, the strongest and bloodiest of six attempts to oust Aquino.

But chief Judge Brig.-Gen. Demetrio Camus rescheduled the proceedings until May 8 after scores of reporters and other spectators jammed the small courtroom, whose air-conditioner failed due to a power outage.

Chief prosecutor Col. Anciano Disierto suggested the trial be delayed until next Monday, defence lawyers and members of the seven-officer tribunal pointed out that electricity was to be cut that day throughout Manila because of the nation's power crisis.

The trial was then reset for the following Tuesday.

Problems over venue and electricity were not the only hitches on the opening day of the trial, which was supposed to underscore the Aquino government's commitment to cracking down on its opponents.

During the proceedings, a defence lawyer, retired Col. Mariano Santiago, pointed out that the Philippine flag behind the tribunal was inverted in a "revolutionary position."

Military rebels use the inverted national flag as their banner. Spectators broke into laughter as embarrassed guards scurried to pull down the flag.

Defendants include air force Brig.-Gen. Jose Comendador and Army Brig.-Gen. Marcelo Blando. They were among six flag officers charged with participating in the failed putsch in which 113 people died and more than 600 were wounded.

Retired Brig.-Gen. Felix Bawner has been charged with rebellion and murder but no date was set for his trial before a civilian court. Brig.-Gen. Edgardo Abenina is still on trial for his role in an August 1987 coup attempt.

A retired general and active duty navy commodore are still at large.

Other defendants include two navy captains, one colonel, seven lieutenant colonels, three majors, five army captains and one air force lieutenant.

All are charged with mutiny, murder and attempted murder and conduct unbecoming an officer. They face sentences of life imprisonment if convicted on all charges.

Soviet fighter was reportedly shot down in 1960 U-2 incident

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet army newspaper has disclosed for the first time that when the Russians downed a U.S. spy plane 30 years ago they also destroyed one of their own fighters that was pursuing the American U-2.

The U-2, piloted by Francis Gary Powers, was shot down on May 1, 1960, disrupting a summit meeting 19 days later in Paris between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet leader Nikita S. Khrushchev and forcing the cancellation of another summit planned for later that year.

Red Star, the Soviet army newspaper, said the Soviets lost a MiG-19 and its pilot in the operation.

The paper also disclosed for the first time that the Soviets sent up a new fighter plane and ordered its pilot to ram the U-2 in a suicide mission. The new fighter reached the U-2's altitude but failed to ram it.

The article, published three days before this year's May Day festivities, may have been intended to remind Soviet readers that U.S. actions have damaged superpower ties in the past. In recent days, Soviet officials have warned that relations might suffer if Washington imposes sanctions on Moscow in retaliation for its crackdown on the breakaway Republic of Lithuania.

Red Star said that Khrushchev was atop Lenin's mausoleum on Red Square watching the May Day parade when he learned that a new model Soviet SA-2 surface-to-air missile had brought down the U-2.

The commander of the Soviet Air Defence Forces, Marshal Sergei Biryuzov, climbed the mausoleum "carrying happy news, that the plane had been hit by the first rocket," the article said. "And Khrushchev, standing right there on the tribune, con-

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Cheney: NATO role still vital

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Sunday the United States must retain a military counterweight to Soviet power in Europe and indicated he felt growing concern about Korean tensions. Because of North Korea's large military forces near the border with the South, "that perhaps is the most tenuous situation in the world today in terms of a situation where U.S. forces are involved," Cheney said on U.S. television. There are about 40,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea to guard its border with Communist North Korea. Cheney said the Soviet Union remains a dominant political power in Europe even though the threat of attack by countries allied in the Warsaw Pact has diminished. "The Warsaw Pact is a relic of history," Cheney said, "the likelihood of a Warsaw Pact invasion of the West is very, very small today." But he said the United States must retain its influence in Europe and would do so through the NATO military alliance.

Vietnam marks victory day

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (R) — Vietnam Monday quietly celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Communist takeover in Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City, with a commitment to revitalise the widely discredited Socialist system. "In the face of the extremely complicated international situation a struggle to defend and develop socialism is unfolding in a fierce manner," President Vo Chi Cong told a ceremony at the former presidential palace. "We are convinced that socialism will surmount all trials."

The Vietnamese leaders have rejected the path taken by East European states, which have abandoned communism in favour of multi-party democracy. Ho Chi Minh City Mayor Nguyen Vinh Nghiep told the meeting, attended by several top leaders, that even 15 years after the defeat of the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese forces its impact was felt in international politics, particularly in the United States. "The United States still suffers pain from the Vietnam syndrome," he said.

Team begins final assault on Everest

PEKING (AP) — Chinese, American and Soviet mountaineers whose first attempt to scale Mount Everest was foiled by high winds left base camp Monday for a second try. The group, trying to promote good will among the three nations, had climbed to 8,300 metres on the 8,848-metre mountain in mid-April in hopes of reaching the top on April 22, Earth Day. But winds forced the climbers to retreat. The official Xinhua News Agency said six climbers, two from each country, left the base camp first and were scheduled to reach a camp at 6,500 metres later Monday.

Romania to restore ties with Vatican

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania announced Monday it had decided to resume relations with the Vatican after a break of more than 40 years, the official Kompress news agency reported. The decision had been taken during a meeting between Foreign Minister Sergiu Cleac and a visiting Vatican official, Angelo Soldano, it said. A representative of the Roman Catholic Church of Romania took part in the meeting, the agency added. Romania has an estimated 100,000 Roman Catholics out of a population of 23 million. Most Romanians follow the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Burma burns narcotics in Rangoon

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — Authorities said they torched 251 kilograms of heroin as well as other narcotic drugs in Rangoon Monday. The drugs included 26 kilograms of opium, 826 kilograms of marijuana, and 5,292 litres of phenisyl, a cough medicine used by some addicts as a heroin substitute. Burmese officials claimed the street value of the drugs was \$504 million. In February, the government publicly burned 209 kilograms of narcotics. Rangoon-based Western diplomats say the burnings are intended to convince the world that Burma is serious about combating the drug trade, but they are sceptical about that commitment.

Castro to visit Uganda soon

KAMPALA (R) — Cuban leader Fidel Castro will pay a state visit to Uganda in the near future, according to Cuban Vice-President Juan Almeida Bosque. Almeida told reporters on arrival from Tanzania Sunday night he had come to prepare for Castro's visit. Citing security reasons, he and Ugandan officials declined to say exactly when Castro would arrive. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni visited Cuba last year.

COLUMN

Paraguayan author gets Spanish award

ALCALA DE HENARES, Spain (AP) — Paraguayan author Augusto Roa Bastos has picked up the world's most prestigious Spanish-language literary prize. He said he would use the \$93,000 award to make books available cheaply in his homeland. King Juan Carlos presented the Cervantes Prize to Roa Bastos in a ceremony in Alcala de Henares, Cervantes' birthplace east of Madrid. In presenting the prize, the Spanish monarch called Roa Bastos "a man of letters and ideas, of words and conscience." "I see the prize as a double honour," Roa Bastos said, "for my work and for the culture of my country."

Woman opens homeless house to homeless

TRUMBULL, Connecticut (AP) — Donna Russell says she was "called by the lord" to open an expensive lakefront house to the homeless, but neighbours say even God's servants must obey man's laws. Town officials, acting on a complaint from a neighbour, have ordered Russell to stop taking in young homeless mothers and have threatened her with arrest. The law in this southern Connecticut community of 33,000 requires that three-quarters of the people living in a "single-family dwelling be related by blood, marriage or adoption. Even the town officer responsible for land-use laws calls the restrictions outdated, but that hasn't quieted Russell's neighbours.

2,000 try to kiss their way into record book

CORVALLIS, Oregon (AP) — About 2,000 people tried to kiss their way into the Guinness Book of World Records, aiming to set a record for the greatest number of people kissing at the same time and place. Participants at the kiss-off at Oregon State University signed ticket stubs to be tabulated and submitted to the record book. The Guinness Book does not contain a record for this event, said Cassandra Wozniak, an organiser. She said efforts to contact the Guinness Record keepers earlier this week failed. Techniques varied, some settled for modest pecks; others were more dramatic. Bryan Cook, 9, who did not participate, rolled his eyes when asked what he thought. "It's not gross, because I don't have to do it. If I did, I would be," he said.

Greek police find priceless antiquities

ELASSONA, Greece (AP) — Police raided two homes and found nearly 100 priceless antiquities dating from the Stone Age to the Byzantine period, a police official has said. The treasures discovered Friday in the village of Krania, 20 kilometres northwest of the central Greek town, include jewellery, weapons, coins, glassware, earthenware statuettes and parts of urns representing most periods of Greek history, said the police official, who asked to remain anonymous. "This is certainly the greatest haul in the area and possibly in the whole of Greece, considering the uniqueness of two or three of the finds and the rarity of the rest. There was a spearhead from 400 B.C. which an archaeologist here says is unique," he said by telephone.

Opera singer hurt when scenery collapses

NEW YORK (AP) — A singer at New York's Metropolitan Opera was slightly injured when she was hit on the head by a collapsing piece of scenery during a performance Saturday night. Soprano Hildegarde Behrens, slipped on a raised platform, fell onto the stage. She was taken to a hospital after she was hit during the final scene of Richard Wagner's *Gotterdammerung*. She had a grazed forehead and scrapes on her elbows, according to Metropolitan Opera spokesman Peter Clark. In the final five minutes of the six-hour opera, Miss Behrens, playing Brunnhilde, slipped while climbing some stage steps and was thrown to the ground when an overhead beam collapsed. The beam was made of foam rubber covered with canvas, Clark said. "She fell back a couple of stairs," said Edward Knight, one member of the audience of 4,000 people. "I think it was obvious to everyone it wasn't just good acting." Miss Behrens walked off the stage on her own and was taken to New York City's Roosevelt Hospital.

Greek MPs fail to elect president

ATHENS (R) — The Greek parliament failed Monday to elect a new president but elder statesman Constantine Karamanlis, who guided Greece back to democracy in the 1970s, remained firm favourite to win the post.

Karamanlis, candidate for the ruling conservative New Democracy Party, goes into a second round of voting Friday with his party's 151 seat absolute majority almost certain to bring him victory.

No candidate of the three major parties in the 300-seat parliament accumulated 180 votes needed to be elected to a five-year term as president in the first

vote. On Friday, 151 votes will be needed for the post according to constitution.

New Democracy has an absolute majority of 151 seats after elections on April 8.

Karamanlis, 83, is Greece's most popular politician according to opinion polls.

He won 149 votes Monday with two New Democracy deputies absent. The Socialist candidate, former parliament President Yannis Alevras, took 123 votes and Communist candidate Constantine Despotopoulos 21.

In the unlikely case that Karamanlis does not take 151 votes Friday he will most likely still win

the presidency as a third vote within a week requires only a simple majority.

Karamanlis returned from self-exile in Paris in 1974 to restore democracy in Greece after seven years of military rule. He founded New Democracy and was prime minister from 1974 to 1980.

He worked to modernise the national economy and put the country firmly in Western Europe, and in 1981 Greece became the 10th member of the European Community.

In 1980 he stepped down as prime minister, opting for the more ceremonial post of president of the republic.

Vietnamese break-outs worry Hong Kong residents

HONG KONG (R) — A sudden increase in the numbers of Vietnamese boat people breaking out of Hong Kong's camps and detention centres has revealed what local residents say are serious shortcomings in security and prompted calls for troops to be brought in.

Over 100 men, women and children cut their way through security fences at the vast Whitehead Complex in the New Territories Saturday night, and by Monday only 24 had been rounded up.

Another 17 managed to get out of Cape Collinson Sunday night. The camp, on Hong Kong island, is one of two used to house those who have agreed to return to Vietnam under the United Nations-backed voluntary repatriation programme.

The Shatin district Board, an elected local body which includes the Whitehead area, said Saturday's break-out showed the colony's prison service was incapable of running the detention centre and demanded that the army be brought in.

"This shows the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is incapable of preventing similar incidents occurring in the future," said Shatin District Board member Lan Kong-Wah.

But government officials were quick to reject suggestions that they call in some of the estimated 9,000 British soldiers based in Hong Kong, many of them Gurkhas.

Government refugee coordinator Mike Hanson said: "Similar suggestions have been made in the past, but the army are not trained for this role. There are no plans to use the army in the way suggested."

Whitehead camp, which now houses 22,000 of the 54,000 Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong, has developed into a major security headache for the government.

There have been a number of serious riots at the camp and many international aid workers say parts of the detention centre are effectively no-go areas, dominated by gangs of youths who arm themselves with makeshift choppers and knives.

The CSD, like Hong Kong's other disciplined services, is suffering from a staff shortage.

Gordon Lam, a CSD spokesman, said 900 CSD officers were guarding Whitehead and it would not be possible to increase the numbers because of staff shortages.

China to lift martial law in Lhasa

PEKING (R) — China will lift martial law in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa Tuesday, May Day, the official New China News Agency (NCNA) reported Monday.

The agency quoted an order signed by Premier Li Peng as saying Lhasa was stable and "social order has returned to normal" in the Himalayan city.

China imposed martial law in the regional capital on March 3 last year after three days of pro-independence demonstrations and rioting in which about 50 people were killed in clashes with security forces.

Li signed the order of the State Council, China's cabinet. Mon-

day, NCNA said.

The task of enforcing martial law in the city had been "successfully fulfilled", it said.

Western tourists in Tibet earlier this month said security was tight with soldiers carrying sub-machineguns standing guard around Lhasa's Jokhang Temple, Tibet's most sacred Buddhist shrine and the focus of many protests against Chinese rule.

Scores of Tibetans have been killed and hundreds arrested since the most recent wave of pro-independence demonstrations erupted in September, 1987.

Berlin Wall's most famous section falls to wrecking crew

WEST BERLIN (AP) — The big arm of a crane smashed into the concrete, scattering enough bits of Berlin Wall to fill a dozen souvenir stands. A small crowd lingered into the early hours Sunday to watch the floodlit scene, wincing as a screeching, scraping array of machines began clearing away the most famous section of the battered barrier.

With the gigantic Brandenburg Gate as a backdrop, it was here that the most vivid image of the revolt against East Germany's Communist government was created.

Thousands climbed the section of wall when the country's borders were opened on Nov. 9, chipping away at the stretch of cement that was once an art gallery of political graffiti.

"I remember walking with my old mother here on Nov. 5 and telling her that it won't be long before this wall is gone," said West Berliner Hans Ulrich, 42, as he leaned on a guardrail and watched the destruction.

"Of course, I'd been saying that for years." When they built the wall around West Berlin nearly three decades ago, Communist authorities put the most effort into the 174-metre section that loops around the Brandenburg Gate. It was by far the most heavily reinforced, a semicircle of concrete slabs cemented together and woven with heavy wire.

With the 18th-century gate the symbol of old Berlin, this section of wall was the symbol of its division, splitting the wide avenue that was once a main thoroughfare.

After the wall was opened, the area around Brandenburg Gate was turned into a border crossing and became a major tourist attraction.

Makeshift souvenir stands hawk everything from Berlin Wall keychains to membership pins worn by East Germany's notorious secret police.

Much of the imaginative graffiti has been chiseled away by souvenir hunters who place great value on paint-splashed pieces of wall. New, post-revolution graffiti has taken its place.

"The wall is on its way to your hometown," read one comment.

The new East German government has said it will remove all of the 170-kilometre barrier around West Berlin. A few weeks ago, long sections adjacent to the Brandenburg Gate were demolished.

Late Saturday night, after most of the tourists had gone home, a West German construction crew and East German soldiers began taking down the section of wall directly in front of the gate.

They planned to work only at night, completing the removal within a week. Officials say they hope to restore auto traffic down the divided street. About 400 people watched Sunday night as a giant jackhammer attached to the end of a crane continued the slow battle against the wall's most formidable flank.

"It is a symbol, but it kept people apart," said East Berliner Fabian Evers, 18, as he sold chunks of wall on a blanket near the gate. "It is an ideological statement to tear it down."

Ulrich, a schoolteacher, said he has no desire to see this part of the wall remain as a memorial. "This section was a symbol not only of the division of Berlin and Germany, but of East and West Europe," he said. "I enjoy very much that this wall is coming down."